

Freshers denied campus accommodation as priority given to Clearing students

**Jack Perry &
Ronnie Rowlands**

The University has over-subscribed on the number of clearing and adjustment students it has accepted, resulting in the number of on-campus rooms being insufficient to house all incoming first-year students. Many students who put Lancaster as their insurance UCAS choice have instead been offered accommodation in Lancaster itself.

Of the 168 insurance accepts 90 will be housed in Cable Street accommodation, City Block or the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus. Insurance students were not given guarantees of on-campus accommodation, though students accepted through clearing and adjustment were.

In an interview with SCAN, Deputy Vice Chancellor Atherton discussed the decision to guarantee on-campus accommodation to clearing students, and not to insurance students.

He explained that the previous year, Lancaster did not enrol any students who had accepted Lancaster as their insurance choice, and that the unpredictable nature of student cohorts comprised of those who chose Lancaster as an insurance choice carried the risk of many, many on-campus rooms being empty.

On August 28th, LUSU



President Joel Pullan met with Deputy Vice Chancellor Atherton to discuss possible support packages for insurance students having to move into off-campus accommodation.

As a result, insurance students having to live off campus have been offered a choice of the University of Cumbria's Lancaster based accommodation, City Block or Cable Street, and have promised waived College membership fees and a bus pass. Students opting to live in the UCUM accommodation are also being granted food vouchers for use in the local refectory.

Off-campus first-years

will be placed in flats with other members of their college, and they will have a team of off-campus fresher reps in order to help them get involved in college and campus activities. All of the off-campus students have been assigned to one of the five most central colleges – County, Bowland, Furness, Fylde and Grizedale.

The announcement of the package came after several weeks of the University's accommodation arm's attempts to nullify the effect of the oversubscription. On August 22nd, in an unprecedented act, existing on-campus students were emailed to be told that they

would be allowed to be released from their residential contract. "Occasionally students request to be released from their accommodation contract and normally we would not be in a position to grant that release" the email read.

"This year however we are prepared to make an exception for a short period of time."

Existing on-campus students were told that if they had been considering other accommodation alternatives and wished to be released from their contracts they could contact their residence officer by August 27th in order to do so.



Introducing the Colleges

SCAN Features give you everything you need to know about your College
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Lad mags ban

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Heidi Nagaitis gives you the lowdown on Freshers' fancy dress.
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SPINE by scan

Introducing SCAN's brand new online-only section
p. 13

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EDITORIAL



Rachel May Quin
Editor

Welcome to the Freshers' Week edition of SCAN and the first edition of the year. Quite frankly, I'm just pleased you're reading this right now, because it means everything went to plan and the first issue made it to the printer.

As the first student elected student editor in thirty years and the first year the role of SCAN Editor has been separated from Rachel Harvey's vice present role, there's been a lot of debate (I use the word 'debate'

kindly) as to whether this role is something a student is capable of managing.

Call me an optimist, but as far as I'm concerned if you have the drive and the passion to really want to achieve something – you will find a way to make it happen. In my case, this means dreaded early mornings and quality time spent with my planner and some highlighters (to brighten up busy days).

Obviously, as with any new endeavour, being a student Editor and managing a team of people has had it's challenges – including changing printers (as you may have noticed given that SCAN is now tabloid size), making sure marketing gets their adverts to us on time, and appointing a new Head of Production over the course of the summer. But, my team and I have powered through and put together this amazing first edition of SCAN, so a big thank you to them.

I'd also like to start the year with a couple of thank you's to the outgoing SCAN

Editor, Rachel Harvey, and her Assistant Editor Jack Smith, for all their guidance so far. Smith in particular has been incredibly patient in showing me the ropes of how to be an Editor and in assisting in the design of this new-look SCAN. Most importantly, my Head of Web & Mobile, Jay Theis, has worked exceptionally hard this summer to completely redesign the website and make SCAN's online presence truly spectacular – so thank you.

The big news at the moment is our beloved Freshers, who are arriving at Lancaster and making their tentative first steps towards their undergraduate degree. Unfortunately, as our front page story indicates, they've not had an easy time of it. The university has managed to oversubscribe in their attempts to draw in as many students as possible; despite their decision to raise the fees to the Tory top limit of £9,000.

Those of you who made it though, be it living on-campus or off-campus, the

main thing to remember is that Lancaster is a brilliant place, which will offer you so many different opportunities. Don't let one bad experience mar your view of this university. You'll meet brilliant people, your colleges will welcome you with open arms, and let's be honest, how many universities have a sign on their main driveway warning visitors to watch out for the ducks?

You'll also notice in this issue we've included a special feature on both the new LUSU Full Time Officer team, who I'm very pleased to be working with this year, and a wonderful collaborative piece in Carolynne, which shows off what our colleges have to offer.

So, all I have left to say is, enjoy the first Quin edition of SCAN, and be sure to pick us up fortnightly for the rest of the year. We'll be in our little purple paper bins, waiting, patiently.

Rachel. x

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News

News Editors: Jack Perry & Steve Start ✉ scan.news@lusu.co.uk

LUSU office relocates from Bunker to Bowland West Wing

- VP for Union Development applauds the move as “ultimately a great step forward” for the Union
- Designed to provide better support, space for development and be more “accessible” to students
- New open plan building incorporates many aspects of the Union, including LUSU Involve and the offices of the FTO team - whilst student media LA1:TV have been moved to Slaidburn House

Julia Molloy
Comment Editor



LUSU have moved into Bowland West Wing ready for the beginning of term. Previously situated in Slaidburn House, LUSU completed the move to its new home at the end of August. LA1:TV and LUSU Involve, who previously used the space in Bowland West Wing, were temporarily relocated to Ash House whilst refurbishments were taking place.

Bowland West Wing now has open plan offices and a foyer area with seating. LUSU Involve also shares the space, with LA1:TV being moved into Slaidburn House when refurbishments are completed before Intro Week.

Laurence Pullan, Vice President for Union Development, said: “It's a noticeable change and one that will undoubtedly have



a few teething issues, but ultimately it's a great step forward. The many different departments of the Union can now operate in the same suitable space which will be sure to benefit our students. I can only advise students to come in and see the new building for themselves – I have a feeling you will all be pleasantly surprised.” The new space will also offer SCAN its own working area as well as a

break-out space and more room to hold meetings for LUSU Full-Time Officers. LUSU President Joel Pullan also spoke positively of the Union's new home, saying: “Three years ago we set out a strategic plan that said we needed a new building to provide better representation, support, opportunities and services for our students.” He also added that the move was a “huge positive

to have a fit-for-purpose space where our services are more accessible.” “This should hopefully mean more collaboration between students, officers and staff on projects, initiatives and campaigns. I'm pleased with how the move has gone and I'm confident the new open plan style of office will prove to be the refreshment that our Union has definitely needed.”

LUSU is aware, however, that such a move still does not offer the purpose-built building that it wants.

Despite being a called positive step, Pullan noted that Bowland West Wing is still “very much an administrative building.”



Investigation: On-campus accommodation

LUSU express dismay at lack of accommodation

Front page story continued

A separate email was then sent on August 29th to incoming students who would have to live off campus.

“While we are working to ensure that the majority of students are placed on campus, due to high demand we are unable to provide on-campus accommodation for all first year students” the email read. “We would like to reiterate that the university will arrange accommodation for all first year students, either in town or on campus.”

On the same day, the Students’ Union released a statement on their website expressing their dismay at the way in which the University has handled admissions and accommodation this year:

“The Students’ Union feel that the University’s decision to guarantee on-campus accommodation to clearing students failed to take into account the number of off-campus first years this would produce.”

“Moving to university can be a stressful time, made more worrying when an element of your student experience becomes uncertain; and we expect the University to take full

responsibility for their actions.”

Some of those students affected by the University’s policy were said to be angry, several of whom had been attracted to Lancaster by its on-campus accommodation, which has won the ‘Best University Halls’ in the National Student Housing Survey four years running. One student said she was dismayed because she had got AAA at A-Level yet had not obtained a place on campus because she applied through insurance. There are anecdotes of other students who had made Lancaster their insurance choice, received an offer, declined it and then applied successfully through clearing.

The problems facing accommodation come after several months of issues relating to low intake in admissions to Lancaster.

According to a bulletin, circulated in February 2013 by the University and Colleges Union, many academic departments had suffered a drastic reduction

in applications, and it was suggested that the reason for this was the high entry tariffs imposed on academic departments.

It was noted, for example, that History had suffered a 49% drop in applications; that Sociology experienced a 33% drop in applications, and that Accounting and Finance suffered a drop of

departments with no input from directors of admissions or heads of department, a procedure that has been described as ‘opaque and inaccessible’ by the UCU.

An emergency meeting of the UCU took place on February 26th and passed a motion calling upon the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mark E. Smith to review the University’s admissions policy. The University then sent out emails to prospective students who had accepted offers to study at Lancaster informing them of their commitment to accept them onto courses even if they achieve one grade below their offer level.

When the period for clearing arrived, it was apparent that the university had failed to meet its target student numbers by a figure in excess of 400.

In the days preceding clearing, which opened on Thursday 15th of August, Faculty officers met to agree on clearing levels (the A-level grades required from clearing applications).

However, it has become

apparent that many of the clearing levels set by faculty officers were, after discussions, overruled by senior management, who called for clearing levels to be set at a majority of BBB.

According to sources, the departments of Maths and Physics both had wanted to set clearing levels at AAB, in order to secure, through clearing, students who had been rejected by top Universities, but eventually compromised at a clearing level of ABC.

While, in some instances, academic departments came somewhat short of reaching their targets, others, including Sociology, Law and Economics (the latter two of which reached their targets, but still were permitted to enter into clearing) overshot and exceeded University projections.

While the University remains positive about the outcome of the process, with Faculty Deans expressing satisfaction with the way in which they were led through clearing and admissions, the Students’ Union has taken a dim view on the outcome.

While Joel Pullan, LUSU President, was pleased to see that the University aims to increase its intake further for the next academic year, he added; “What I think is concerning and disappointing is the way the university went about admissions this year. They showed a disregard for insurance choice students’ expectations of living on campus, and instead chose to guarantee clearing students on cam-

“Students who got lower grades, and didn’t even apply to Lancaster, are being valued higher than I.”



pus accommodation.

“They have to take responsibility for that and the Students’ Union will ensure that they do.”

Vice-President (Education) Joe O’Neill was equally critical, particularly of the University’s decision to recruit so many students through clearing.

“The fact that D Floor, in its infinite wisdom, decided to go against its own much trumpeted, vigorously defended escalation of entry grades and implement a slash-and-grab bid for a bit of extra cash shows exactly how right critics of their Oxbridge-on-the-Lune pipe dream were.”

O’Neill went on to assert that LUSU had been told in no uncertain terms by the University that no such issues surrounding over-subscription or accommo-

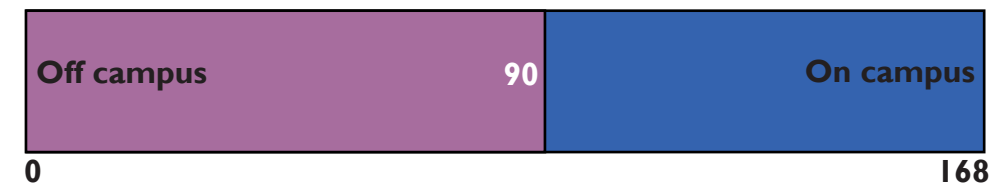


dation would arise; “However, along rumbled the Uni House machine, running like clockwork on its predictable summer timetable.

“We fought and managed to win a number of concessions for our students, and

for the JCRs who will have to go about administering off-campus freshers’ weeks and on-going pastoral care, but even then it was yet another case of picking up the pieces after another mess dumped on us by D-Floor.”

Of 168 insurance offers, 90 students will have to live off campus in their first year



University set to reach undergraduate intake targets

Jack Perry
News Editor



Lancaster University is set to welcome around 2600 new first year graduates from the UK and EU and around 730 new international undergraduates. Although the numbers cannot be confirmed until registration, the predicted figures suggest that this is broadly

in line with the University’s target intake for this year.

This compares with an overall first year undergraduate intake of 2967 in 2012/13 and an intake of 3163 in 2011/12. This year’s expected intake would therefore mean that more undergraduate students are coming to Lancaster than two years ago, the year before the government introduced the trebling of tuition fees.

The University has had greater freedom to attract

high quality applicants to consider Lancaster, due to a relaxation in student number controls. The University said that “Lancaster has attracted applicants who were amongst the strongest nationally which supports our position as a leading UK university.”

Of the total undergraduate intake, 901 UK/EU students and 113 international students are expected to join the Faculty of Science and Technology, with 917 UK/EU students and 163 international students forecasted

to join the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Elsewhere, 174 UK/EU students and 23 international students are expected to join the Faculty of Health and Medicine, while the Management School is expected to receive 610 UK/EU students and 431 International

students.

At postgraduate level, the University are anticipating receiving approximately 500 UK/EU and 820 International students to taught Masters programmes, and about 190 UK/EU and 130 International students for research.

Can college spirit be kept alive?

Rachel May Quin
Editor



As if the stress of A levels isn’t hard enough for students hoping to come to university for the extortionate price of nine grand a year, imagine being told that the university of your choice couldn’t offer you accommodation on campus and you’ll be left to fend for yourself in the opening few weeks of your independent life. Scary, isn’t it?

It might seem as if the reaction of first-years being told they cannot live on campus is unreasonable, bearing in mind that many city based universities such as Manchester and Newcastle have their halls dispersed across the city – thus #

However, in my personal experience, the draw of Lancaster was it’s self-sufficient, neighbourhood style campus, which as a first year can be extremely comforting when you have to leave home and come to an entirely new place.

The other issue is that Lancaster prides itself on its

collegiate system, and yet those students who will be living off campus – despite the promise of Fresher Reps to look after them – will probably find themselves feeling disattached from their colleges.

It looks as though the responsibility to make these Freshers’ feel at home will be up to the college JCRs, and certainly College Spirit Week, in week 2 of this term, should be emphasised to all these unfortunate first-years to make sure that they stay in the loop and feel at one with their university.

However, it must be said that their is a silver lining to every miserable cloud – perhaps this experience will teach the university that higher education should not be treated as a cash cow for them to exploit. The students who apply to Lancaster are real people, with hopes and aspirations, and by shunning the young people who made Lancaster their first choice and who slaved for two years to make it – we may well be raking in the tuition fees, but we’re harming our reputation and levels of student satisfaction. It might not seem like much, but upsetting students is a good way to ensure a drop in applications.

UCAS

Engineering building underway

- It is estimated that the new £12 million engineering building will be complete by late 2014
- The investment will allow new specialisms such as nuclear and chemical engineering for students

Steve Start
News Editor

Lancaster University has begun the construction of a new £12 million, state-of-the-art Engineering building to be completed by late 2014, and is set to become “the flagship for engineering education and research in the North West” according to Head of Department Malcolm Joyce.

The new development is set to provide additional resources for on-going research as well as new specialisms such as nuclear, energy and chemical engineering with specific interest in the research and manufacture of renewable technologies.

The building is planned to be a two-winged development with a central atrium surrounded by mechanical workshops and laboratories on the ground floor. On the first floor there will be electronic and chemical engineering units, with two separate floors above dedicated to study zones, meeting areas and academic office spaces.

The structure will also contain several ‘live labs’ which will be visible from outside of the building, allowing greater transparency into the inner workings of the department as well as providing inspiration for passing students and visitors.

The decision to invest in the new complex comes with support from the Head of Department, Professor Malcolm Joyce, who when speaking to University House called the industry “highly buoyant” with “90% of our engineering students [gaining] professional managerial jobs six months after graduating and 50% of students receiving jobs before results even came out.”

Over the last few years the engineering department has seen growth both in the number of students

it attracts and the profile of the qualifications it offers. Within the last five years the existing Engineering Department has experienced exponential growth with a 100% increase in undergraduate places with a similar rise in the numbers of academic and research staff. The department’s General Engineering degree is also ranked in the top ten of the UK Complete University Guide. Professor Joyce said that he hoped the new building will “reaffirm... our position in the UK... by ensuring the highest standard of facilities, [which will] raise our profile even further as a key provider of engineering education.”

As well as an increase in student numbers the department has seen a 200% increase in industry-related expenditure on research, as well as a surge in funds procured from the UK Government to the value of 80% greater than the preceding year. This extra funding has enabled students, such as fourth year Mechanical

Engineering student Loren Wright to gain experience at CERN, the home of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Wright described her experience at CERN as “invaluable”.

“I was asked to design and develop a high powered and accurate hole-punching tool to help facilitate the upgrades to the LHC... I was given the invaluable experience of being allowed to see a project develop from the initial discussion stages, through to the design and simulation testing stages, all the way to seeing the final production of the tool.”

The tool that Wright designed and created was to be involved in the repair of the interconnections between 10,000 superconducting magnets. To do the repairs the team at the LHC needed a device that was small enough to fit yet packed

enough force to puncture the thermal shields surrounding the interconnections.

Talking to University House, Wright admitted that she “ran into a few problems” and had to do a lot of “stress analysis and modifying of the original design in order to reduce stress intensities” so that the tool could sustain a high frequency of usage without compromising the quality of its function.

Concerning the procurement of such a prestigious placement, SCAN asked Wright about her success and she responded: “Lancaster University, and especially the Engineering Department, were incredibly supportive of helping me achieve the placement. Several lecturers within the department spent a lot of effort fine tuning my application form and, after my acceptance, took the time to give me some extra tutoring on some of the engineering involved at CERN.”

A similar story can be

heard from fourth year Nuclear Engineering intern Miriam Colling. Colling praises the University for their continued support in her application to work at CERN – which includes optimising the accelerators that are responsible for colliding atomic particles at extremely high speeds. When talking to SCAN, Colling recalled how she had “spent a month of this summer in the engineering department with some of the lecturers who generously gave their time to help me prepare for what the placement might entail.”

The department’s commitment to students and their futures does not just end in the closing minutes of lectures, but continues in the lecturers’ own time and relies upon the department’s networking with multinational companies and research facilities. Colling said that “Lancaster University students are able to gain deeper insights into the projects carried there [CERN].”



Image courtesy of Anne Rothwell

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Role of the Department Reps are “invaluable” claims VP O’Neill as elections for position draw near

- VP Education #FTjOe argues reps are an important part of academic process, although changes need to be made to ensure the role remains effective for both students and departments

Theodore Sheehy

More emphasis is being placed on the role of department representatives this academic year, as departments attempt to engage students with their subjects and encourage them to become more active with their degrees by holding elections in the first few weeks of Michaelmas term. LUSU’s newsletter Squeak described department reps as a “vital link between students, the University and the Students’ Union”. The role of the department rep involves speaking on behalf of the student body academically,

by working with the departments and providing a voice when issues with courses arise. This involves being present at departmental meetings and working alongside relevant staff to bring positive change for the students.

Criticism of the effectiveness of the role became one of the key issues for Joe O’Neill during the LUSU Full-Time Officer elections last year. O’Neill, now Vice President Education, described the role of department reps as “an invaluable part of the structure of the university”. However, he admitted that changes are required to make the posi-

tion more effective. Speaking to SCAN, O’Neill made it clear that the departmental representative system was here to stay, whilst also stating that there were ways of making it better. The measure he proposes is the introduction of a pilot scheme where elections for future departmental representatives occur in a number of departments.

Students and departments alike have sought such improvements, with Professor John Schad, head of English and Creative Writing, stating that although it is a ‘reasonable system ... it could be improved’. More prominent issues have been

pointed out by representatives such as Marguerite Walley, who argues the training given to department representatives should be organised by the departments themselves, allowing for students to understand the mechanisms within the department. Training is currently dealt with by LUSU, which Walley claims is inadequate. Another representative, Lauren Riley, also pointed out that there is no job specification given to representatives, and therefore no guiding hand to make them effective in that position.

However, there are still signs that the department

representative system is seen as a useful one. Caroline Arnold, Cross-Campus Officer for Education, stated that they are ‘extremely worthwhile’ as they ‘provide student opinion and conduct essential student consultation’.

This opinion is concurred by some representatives and heads of departments as well, with previously elected representatives Emily Tarbuck and Alasdair Hughes stating that they are ‘invaluable’ and act as an ‘important channel’.

Professor Ivan Paya, Head of Economics, also stated that they ‘play a very important role’.

Lancaster University awarded nine million pound grant for research into healthcare

- Professor Popay claims research will reduce “gross inequality of life expectancy” in North West

Steve Start News Editor

Lancaster University has been awarded a nine million pound research grant in the field of Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care, part of the Sociology and Public Health department.

Researchers from across the UK were invited before the Department of Health to pledge their cases for investment to improve public health through the adoption of new collaborative strategies and advances in technology.

Lancaster University has also come together with other local universities, authorities, health services and the Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group to

raise a further £12.5 million for the cause.

The initiative, led by Professor Jennie Popay of the Sociology and Public Health department, aims to work with the funding provided by the local universities, NHS services and local government to improve the way that patients are managed and treated in the North West.

On the topic of what the funding will specifically contribute to, Professor Popay spoke to the University press office and said that it “will improve people’s health across the North West as well as reducing the gross inequalities in life expectancy and wellbeing that blight many areas of the region.”

The research budget is just a slice of a total £124 million invested nationwide to improve the health services within the UK.

The Lancaster Guardian reported that Lord Howe, Health Minister, believed this kind of funding was necessary as “with a growing elderly population, the need for innovative and effective solutions has never been more important.”

The University and its partners also plan to work directly with pharmaceutical companies, software companies and medical device manufacturers to devise a much more efficient and beneficial system of care for the aging population in the North West.

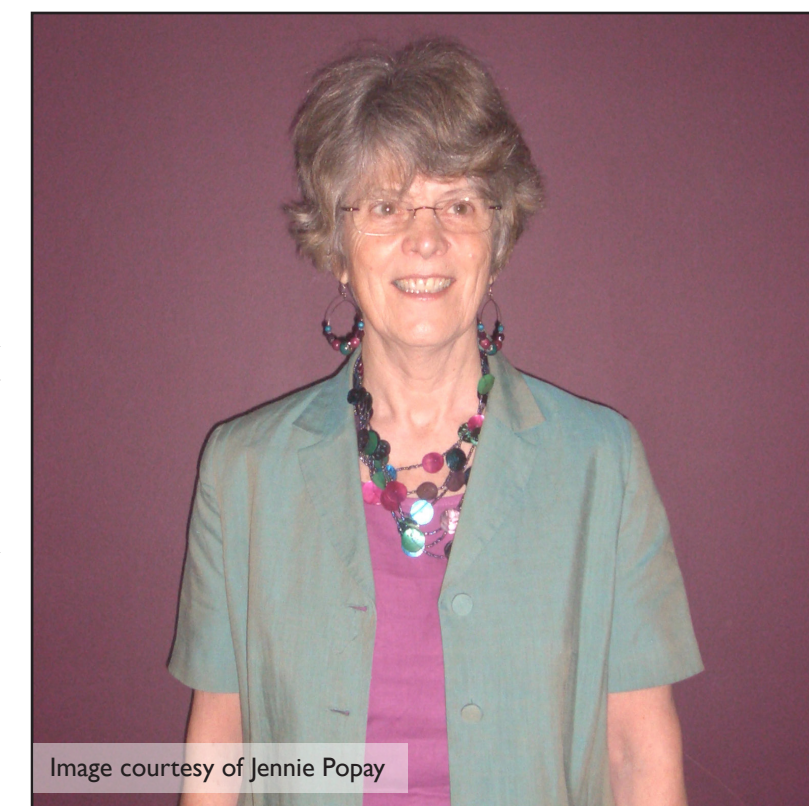


Image courtesy of Jennie Popay

Investigation: “Lad culture” at Lancaster

As “Lad Mags” are banned from LUSU shops, just what impact have they had on campus?

• SCAN looks in to the efforts being made by the Police and LUSU to prevent a “rape culture”



Jack Perry
News Editor

In August this year, Tom Fox, LUSU Vice President of Welfare and Community, announced that so-called ‘Lads Mags’ such as Zoo and Loaded, will be removed from LUSU Central shelves for that start of this term; and will be prohibited from being sold in LUSU stores. This is due to the fact that these lad mags regularly feature images of naked, or half-naked, women which Fox has noted tend to contribute to the concerning nature of rape culture.

Rape culture is a set of attitudes within society which normalises or legitimises rape, and various other forms of sexual harassment or violence. It is suggested that this culture can derive from the notorious LAD culture, which is often perceived to be championed by these so-called lad mags. Fox believes that the removal of magazines like Zoo and Loaded is a step in the right direction towards diminishing this culture amongst young people, stating that “removing lad mags is just one of the ways that we as a Union are trying to tackle it, by removing publications that could be seen as endorsing these viewpoints”.

LUSU are also taking steps to eradicating rape culture in other ways. After Edinburgh University recently banned the Robin Thicke song ‘Blurred Lines’ from playing in university buildings, due to its alleged sexism and references to non-consensual sex, LUSU have decided to create an online poll which will allow

Lancaster students to vote for whether they believe the song should be banned in the same manner – as well as opening the point up for discussion to LUSU Council.

However, it is possible to suggest that rape culture may not be particularly overriding in Lancaster. In 2009, Lancaster was proclaimed the safest university city in the United Kingdom by the Complete University Guide. Indeed, it appears that rather than the Union trying to prevent sexist attitudes becoming an issue at Lancaster, they are instead reacting to the lack of interest in these attitudes within the wider student body. “These lad mags were selling less than five copies a year”, Fox noted. “It felt like a good time to remove them

as it was more than apparent that students did not want them in their shop”. Previous work by LUSU’s welfare arm – as well as the Lancaster University Feminist Society and the annual Vagina Monologues production that takes place in Lancaster – suggest that the student body are unaffected by this rape culture and may have helped to affirming a positive attitude towards both genders. However, the question remains: is Lancaster entirely free of rape culture?

This is perhaps the case, although the evidence suggests that there needs to be more education with regards to rape culture and consensual sex. During an investigation in collaboration with Bailrigg FM, a sample of

Lancaster University’s student population were asked, “do you think rape culture exists in Lancaster?” The results were split 50/50, and whilst admittedly a small sample size in comparison to the number of students at Lancaster, the results seems to suggest that there is a reasonable amount of confusion around the issue.

Delving a little deeper, it seems that the confusion around rape culture’s existence may stem from different understandings of what constitutes consensual sex. Alcohol, for example, appears to make the issue a particularly grey area. In an anonymous survey conducted in February 2013, the Feminist Society asked 100 people whether they agreed with the statement “sex

with a drunk [sic] person can’t be consensual” – to this, 17% strongly disagreed and 16% slightly disagreed; with 34% slightly agreeing and 10% of those surveyed strongly agreeing.

The comments made by many of the respondents reveal the complexities of the issue and apparently confusion of the matter. Many respondents believed that the level of intoxication was an important factor to consider. Whilst many agreed with the statement that “if a someone is passed out drunk, then it is not consensual”, statements along the lines of “a person can still consent to sex provided they aren’t... too drunk” were also common. The general attitude appears to be that as long as

the person in question appears to have some control over their actions, then sex can be deemed consensual – despite the fact that statistics show you are more likely to be sexually assaulted by a friend than a stranger.

“What is of upmost importance is that victims of rape have the confidence to report such crimes, as well as having confidence that any allegation will be dealt with properly”

Drink can also prove to be problematic in other ways. Speaking confidentially to SCAN, one source revealed that she had been sexually assaulted in the home of a fellow student whom she had met that night, despite making it clear she was not interested and making verbal and physical protestations when subjected to the advances of another intoxicated student, she was forced to leave and call the police. Whilst it is impossible to blame the actions of an intoxicated individual

on rape culture, it appeared to manifest in other areas of the source’s account. Our source revealed that they felt uncomfortable telling their friends about the incident, due to one previously labelling her a “slag”. They also felt that the police response was ineffective and their complaint went no further.

The police force in Lancaster, however, appear to take accusations of rape and sexual harassment very seriously, running a campaign against such issues on their website. In a conversation with SCAN, a police spokesperson said that “in recent years, we have made significant advances in the way we approach investigation of this difficult offence. The creation of specialised teams is seen as a real step forward and has been met with positive feedback from both victims and partner agencies”.

“What is of upmost importance is that victims of rape have the confidence to report such crimes, as well as having confidence that any allegation will be dealt with properly, sensitively and robustly by the police”.

On the other hand, the police also acknowledge the complexities of investigating rape and sexual assault cases: “understanding

the true nature and extent of rape is difficult, because academic research shows that the incidence of this offence is underreported”. Indeed, research shows that 40% of rape victims in the UK do not report the crime, and there appears to be an extremely low conviction rate when they do.

Therefore, whilst LUSU may be making moves to tackle rape culture indirectly, by banning inappropriate magazines from campus – and possibly even controversial songs in the near future – what perhaps is more vital is education as to what counts as consensual sex. Campaigns such as Easy Tiger can only benefit the student body, by encouraging people to take care of themselves and be aware of how much alcohol they are consuming in order to remain alert during nights out. The example of alcohol given is just one area where there appears to be a considerable lack of understanding and consensus; this makes it harder for people to report sexual assault, and thus itself adds to a dangerous culture which appears to legitimise rape. The first step towards tackling rape culture and sexism is better education around the areas of consensual sex and staying safe.



Where can the line be drawn with regards to censorship?

Rachel May Quin
Editor



Tom Fox’s decision to ban the sale of lad mags from LUSU shops on campus has attracted a fair amount of attention from the student body, and is further discussed in the comment section of this issue.

It would seem that the banning of such magazines is a mark of respect towards

the many female students at Lancaster University, due to their discriminating and at times, quite frankly, disgusting attitudes towards women.

However, Edinburgh University’s decision to ban Robin Thicke’s summertime track ‘Blurred Lines’, becomes a different issue entirely – where exactly can the line be drawn?

Choosing to prevent LUSU run stores from selling a product is a decision entirely down to them, it doesn’t prevent students who choose to read such publications from popping into another store in town.

However, debating whether a song should be banned is entirely different, that seems to imply that students’ unions have the right to censor what music their student body listens to if they deem it to be inappropriate.

Whilst it’s blatantly obvious that Thicke’s song objectifies women in various ways, etc. etc., Thicke is not the only artist guilty of being a bit thick with regards to such issues.

It would be safe to argue that the vast majority of modern rap music appears to objectify and sexualise women. A lot of popular

modern day music features scantily clad females writhing around in all manner of positions whilst the male musician sings his tune.

Sadly, this kind of sexism and discrimination has been going on long before ‘Blurred Lines’, and it seems that if we want to clarify the issue of consensual sex and eradicate rape culture, we need to be doing more than simply banning a magazine here and there.

It is worth noting again, that here at Lancaster, students immerse themselves in activities which actively seek to counteract rape culture. The Vagina Mono-

logues last year proved incredibly popular, and even attracted the attention of Eve Ensler – American playwright and genius behind The Vagina Monologues – who came to Lancaster earlier in the year to participate in the One Billion Rising celebration.

All in all, the Union are doing the right thing in attempt to make students at Lancaster, of both genders, feel safe from discrimination and sexual violence. There is no place in society for LADs, rape culture, or any kind of culture which threatens to objectify or belittle men and women.



Photo by Lucy Lamb

LUSU’s “eye-opening” Inbound programme visits London

Rachel May Quin
Editor

Lancaster University has played host to dozens of students from five different countries this summer as part of the Inbound programme organised by LUSU Involve.

A range of students from India, Malaysia, China, Palestine and Pakistan spent three weeks at Lancaster University, guided by our own student ambassadors and participated in a varie-

dents. Pullan, President of the Union, spoke of his experience with the Inbound programme, having visited China last summer, and told SCAN that “as chair of the panel, it was interesting to see where the students had concerns in their own countries”. Furthermore, he added that it was an amazing opportunity for both the exchange students and Lancaster “to have such high-profile guests taking part in our internal exchange programme – I’m

sues students face in terms of fundamental human rights. Whilst I’m not saying LUSU is about to topple corrupt dictatorships and end all the injustices in the world, I do firmly believe that as students we are in an excellent position to bring about change within our societies and stronger collaboration with our international partners can help to drive forward those aims and beliefs we value most.”

The panel contained a mix

Payne travelled to the Cavendish Conference Centre to join the panel. They were asked questions from the audience of international students about various political affairs and important issues such as improving the diversity of representation in parliament, and how Britain represents itself on a global front by creating links with other countries.

In an interview with SCAN afterward, Lord Falconer stated that it was

portance of youth in politics, emphasising that “if young people aren’t engaged then perspective is lost and the authority of politicians is eroded – the world changes so quickly that if you have white males over 60 being the dominant element in political leadership, it won’t command the respect of the country”. Falconer revealed that his decision to move from his career as a barrister to politics came as he had “always been committed to the politics of the left”, believing it to be a broader form of politics which aimed to benefit the many, as opposed to the few.

SCAN also had the opportunity to speak to Ollerenshaw, the Conservative member of parliament for Lancaster and Fleetwood, who felt that the panel question and answer sessions was a “successful endeavour” with some “very in-depth questions from interested students”. Ollerenshaw said he thought “Lancaster as a city is alive principally because of the university and the activity of students”, thus maintaining links with institutions abroad provided “transferable skills that are important in winning the global race, Lancaster is at the fore of this”. He also spoke of his visit to Pakistan two years ago and his experience as a teacher in the Lancaster area for 30 years of his life. Ollerenshaw revealed that it was his time as a teacher that gave him “a drive to do something better for the pupils I was teaching... people deserved a better chance”. As a Conservative MP, he claims to have “upped numbers in terms of women representatives and members of different minority groups in parliament, [as] every party has a duty to increase diversity”, with this in mind, he added “every bit of support I can give [to Lancaster], I will give”.

ty of community and sports events; culminating in a political interaction session at the Cavendish Conference Centre in London on August 6th.

The London event was attended by LUSU President Joel Pullan and VP Education Joe O’Neill, as well as a distinguished panel of guests. The Union’s team of full time officers have worked closely with Involve and attended many of the programme’s summer events, giving them a unique opportunity to spend time with the international stu-

positive that all of the students took something valuable from the panel debate”.

O’Neill described the Inbound project as a “resounding success... bringing people together from all over the world to share their cultures and experiences, and giving them the opportunity to sample the British lifestyle”. He also added that “we tend to take our students’ unions for granted as merely service providers and sports clubs, but on an international level it was eye-opening to hear of the is-

of political figures, Lancaster alumni and members of the university. Lord Falconer, a British Labour politician and barrister who became Lord Chancellor in 2003, attended the event and gave a short speech; as well as Lancaster local Eric Ollerenshaw OBE MP, recently elected as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Lancaster and Fleetwood. From our own university, Steve Royal of the Richardson Institute, Dr Matthew Francis of the PPR department, and ex-LUSU President Michael

“absolutely critical” that universities engage international students in British political affairs, due to the fact that “the world is competing for the best students, and if institutions like Lancaster don’t engage properly with foreign students, than as a country, we won’t be competing [with other economies] and our nation will decline as a result”. Falconer described the work of Lancaster and the Inbound programme over the last few weeks as “excellent and vital for the future”.

He also spoke of the im-



Photo by Lucy Lamb

SPINE by scan

This summer, we’ve been working on a **NEW** way for you to interact with your *oldest* student media.

Have you ever picked up a copy of SCAN and thought about writing for us, then realised that you write enough essays and coursework for your subject as it is?

Do you run your own blog, or spend a lot of time browsing around websites that give you short, snappy content: like Buzzfeed, Reddit or Huffington Post?

We’ve invested a lot of time and effort this summer, working hard not just to redesign the paper you’re holding in your hands right now, but also to redesign our website.

Find out more online.

2013
is the
year
that
scan
goes
viral.



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scan

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Feature: LUSU Full Time Officers 2013-14

This year’s Full Time Officer (FTO) team introduce themselves in this special SCAN feature

Joel Pullan - President



I’m the President of the Student’s Union this year, and I’ll be leading the political direction of the students’ union with the help of my full time officer team. My main focus this year is providing strong representation on University meetings, ensuring that the student voice is well and truly heard. I will also be

focusing on mobilizing students and officers, helping them to produce policy and campaign on issues affecting the student body. As well as this I’ll be taking part in many exciting opportunities such as helping to find our new University Chancellor, setting the new strategic

plan for the Students’ Union, and assisting in the University’s 50th Anniversary celebrations. One thing I am expecting as a Students’ Union President is to be challenged by all students. I need to know your opinions on issues, your thoughts on whether we as a Union are representing you as best we

can, and whether we are engaging our study body as effectively as possible. If you haven’t already, check out our YourVoice forum and start a thread on an issue that is affecting you at University, or get in touch (lusu.president@lancaster.ac.uk). We need to remain active, political and relevant to our student body!

Laurence Pullan - Vice President (Union Development)



the role how I want. Being VP (Union Development) strikes you as a typical “General Secretary” and “Social Officer” hybrid, as I deal with officer finances, socials, elections and officer training and development. It’s an over-used word but I also encourage students to become “activists”. That means that if there is an issue or campaign I want to help lead not just officers but all students to stand for themselves and take part in as many campaigns as possible.

Also, rather excitingly, I am also the lead officer when it comes to the Union’s Commercial Services. That means I sit on meetings about the Sugarhouse, Shops, Purple and also deal with LUSU Living. So if anybody wants to make any recommendations about how we provide for you, then let me know! Budget pots have changed this year. Many people found the amount of pots, and where funding could be granted from, very confusing. Last year there

were 28 different pots, this year 18. There is now a pot of £15,000 for campaigns and initiatives. Requests for funding are granted in LUSU Executive. If anybody has any questions, contact your VP Union Development (lusu.vp.development@lancaster.ac.uk). Your Full Time Officers have reduced their budget pots by £250 which will instead be reinvested in Conferences and Conventions – meaning that more of our membership

can attend NUS Conferences and other conventions that LUSU Executive see fit. The Democracy budget looks to be reduced by around £1000 to £5000. In recent years, some expenditure has been extravagant (the LUSU Cow for one) and it was thought that £5000 was adequate enough a budget to promote all elections. We have also increased our Student Wellbeing and Welfare pot by £250 to £500, showing our commitment to student safety.

Tom Fox - Vice President (Welfare & Community)



will be actively promoting equality, diversity and the need for efficient and accessible services to deal with any problems that affect student’s wellbeing during their time at University. This year, for the first time, my role also deals with sustainability and community affairs; working on promoting a greener Lancaster and creating spaces for both students and residents to work together and improve their shared environment. I am here to represent you, no matter who you are, and ensure that students are having the most comfortable, accessible and enjoyable experience while they are here at Lancaster University.

Over the past three months I have been working on some of our long-term campaigns that you will recognize already such as Easy Tiger, which is all about enjoying yourself in an atmosphere that promotes responsible drinking. There have also been discussions on how our Counselling Service at the University is combating the growing number of students who are suffering from mental health issues, and how we as a Union can begin to remove the stigma of these issues so that individuals who shy away from finding support feel able to do so. Working with the Health Centre on campus, we have also been looking into ways we can push a safer attitude

to sexual health, with the continued free provisions of condoms inside the LUSU building, and at the Health Centre alongside Chlamydia tests. There is a vast amount of initiatives that I hope to embark on this term; from campaigns that tackle rape and lad culture, to strong political stances against government policies such as the NHS Fees for international students, I aim to ensure that along with the rest of my full time officer team, we are making sure your needs and wellbeing are at the forefront of our actions. If there is anything that you would like to bring to my attention, please feel free to pop into the Student

Union office and find me, or drop me an email at lusu.vp.welfare@lancaster.ac.uk. We can talk privately if need be, and I am more than happy to help or point you in the right direction. If there is something that you feel needs to be touched upon that you don’t feel confident has been mentioned (which will probably be a lot, considering how broad my job is) do not hesitate to contact me. Enjoy your first few weeks here at Lancaster, and don’t forget to keep an eye out for your College JCR Welfare Officers, as they are not only there to help you, but to represent you in committees and councils that direct the policy of your Union.

Joe O’Neill - Vice President (Education)



sent students on all things education and employability. This ranges from sitting in on Senate (the University’s governing academic body) to awarding funding from the LUSU Enterprise Fund for student start-up businesses (think Dragons’ Den but with fewer millionaires and not in an inexplicably drab warehouse). My main priority, though, is lead student officer for the Students’ Union’s Advice Centre (to save the VP Welfare & Community having a tantrum, I’ll point out only on the education side. Welfare is also important.) We have a dedicated team of four full time staff with a wealth of experience providing guidance and support in academic appeals, housing & finance issues, policy... You name it, they probably know about it. In my role as VP Education, it’s my job is to represent students on all things education and employability. This ranges from sitting in on Senate (the University’s governing academic body) to awarding funding from the LUSU Enterprise Fund for student start-up businesses (think Dragons’ Den but with fewer millionaires and not in an inexplicably drab warehouse). My main priority, though, is lead student officer for the Students’ Union’s Advice Centre (to save the VP Welfare & Community having a tantrum, I’ll point out only on the education side. Welfare is also important.) We have a dedicated team of four full time staff with a wealth of experience providing guidance and support in academic appeals, housing & finance issues, policy... You name it, they probably know about it. In my role as VP Education, it’s my job is to represent

and they’re here to help you, so to get in touch or for more info on them and their work visit lusu.co.uk/advice Over the summer we’ve been working hard to develop the department rep system. For those unaware, every department at Lancaster University has elected student representatives who are there to take on-board any concerns you have with any aspect of your course and communicate them to academics and university staff. I’m sure there will be more elsewhere in this esteemed paper about department reps, so I shall save going into too much detail, but one of the main and (in my humble, slightly geeky opinion) most exciting developments we’ve had is to begin a pilot across a few departments to run rep elections online for the first

time ever! *insert fanfare here* All going well, we should be in a position to begin rolling out online elections to pretty much every department over next year or two, meaning your department rep elections will be easier, more transparent and generally more efficient. Outside of the exciting world of academic representation, I’ve also been over and had a chat with the nice folks at the library. For those who can cast their minds back to the Students’ Union Officer elections of last year, I made a great song and dance about a 24-hour library. Whilst they have agreed that opening hours will be extended to 24/5 during the Summer Term every year, there’s still a lot of work to do to get it every term but there is in fact scope for extended

opening hours (say till 3am or so) for the near future so I shall keep working on it and keep you posted. Staying on library opening hours for one more sentence, I can confirm for our post-graduates (and anyone else staying and studying over the holidays) that they have agreed to open on Sundays. Huzzah! I grow ever conscious of the fact the editor gave us a word-count that I am now riding roughshod over (and a deadline I blantly missed) so will have to bring our first date to a close. It’s been fun, and I hope you’ll call me again some time. Tweet me @lusu-vpeducation, email me at lusu.vp.education@lancaster.ac.uk or just come in and see me any time. Y’know. If you’d like. I won’t be waiting by the phone for you to call or anything. Honest.

Rachel Harvey - Vice President (Campaigns & Communications)



Hi! I am Rachel, your Vice President Campaigns & Communications and this is my second year as a Full Time Officer. I graduated in 2012 with a Fine Art degree and while I studied at Lancaster I was very involved in the student radio station, Bailrigg FM. I have always loved music

and art but during my time as an undergraduate I found a real love for student media, which lead me to run for this role. Last year a lot of my focus was on developing the student media groups, creating wider opportunities and giving them the attention they deserved. Over the course of the

year I became involved with campaigns and more involved with the unions communications. This year I want to bring back big campaigns to our student body, and create an even more lively campus than the one we already have. I want to start working with alumni and the

University marketing department to aid the student experience we have at Lancaster. I believe in fair and equal opportunities so I will be working on elections and equality campaigns over the year, as well as continuing work with student media and LUSU communications. P.S I love bar sports.

Emily Pollitt - Vice President (Activities)



represent you. In my role as VP Activities I focus on all the sports clubs and societies we have here at Lancaster, working with the University and the rest of the Activities team to provide the best for you. I am also responsible for organising the big events we have throughout the year including the Christmas markets at the end of Michaelmas term and Campus Festival at the end of Lent term. Another huge event I take a lead on is our annual inter varsity sporting competi-

tion against York; ‘Roses’. This year sees the 50th anniversary of the competition held here at Lancaster and I am so excited! As a team we have been very busy over the summer focussing on things like the College Spirit Campaign that will be happening in Week 2, the constitution of the students union and of course preparing for fresher’s week. Personally, over the summer I have been focussing on sports development to develop a structure that can offer extra support

to some clubs and hopefully help improve their performance on the whole. For societies we are currently recruiting a dedicated member of staff to help societies flourish and achieve more over the next year. We have also got the ball rolling on both Christmas markets and Roses 2014 and will soon be looking for volunteers for Christmas Market so keep an eye out for that! Looking to the next year I am very passionate about raising the profile of sport at Lancaster and encourag-

ing more spectators at our home matches. I am also determined to make sure we run an effective campaign on ‘Out in Sport’. We hope to introduce a new event in Lent Term that shares all the cultures we have on campus. Most importantly however I want to reiterate that we are here for you and to make your ideas happen so please feel free to pop in to see me at anytime and look out for our officers in the Square! Have a great year and don’t forget to make the most of your time at Lancaster!

Before I delve into what has been happening over the summer, and what I feel we as a Union should be focusing on this term, I thought it best to provide a brief outline of what is expected of me as your Vice President for Welfare and Community. Throughout the year, I

The scan archives

Taking a look back into Lancaster's history

14th October 2008
No. 1 this week: Alexandra Burke ft. Flo Rida - Bad Boys

Replacement Sports Centre plans shelved

PLANS to build a replacement for the University's ageing Sports Centre have been delayed. The international financial crisis has been blamed for the shelving of the proposals.

At a meeting of the University Council, which is the highest decision making body in the University, the Director of Finance and Resources told the Council that it would not be possible to advance with plans for the Sports Centre because of the University's inability to find a financier for the project.

Banks are currently unwilling to lend money to each other, for fear that they may collapse, leaving bad debts. This means that it is incredibly difficult for businesses to find finance for large projects while the banks are troubled by such uncertainty.

However, referring to the rest of the Phase 5 development, he reported that

with the exception of the new Sports Centre "there is sufficient money... to carry out all the projects to which Council is committed."

"The international financial crisis has been blamed for the shelving of the proposals."

Phase 5 of campus redevelopment will involve leasing off the majority of the remaining University owned residences on campus to UPP (University Partnerships Programme) in return for a £37.5m lump sum, and £0.7m each year in ground rent. The intention is to raise funds for non-residential building projects. UPP already owns most of the residences on campus, and they will be tasked with refurbishing the older residences.

Funds raised from the leasing of the residences will be put towards a number of projects. According to the Lancaster University Masterplan, these developments will include such projects as the Learning Grid (the area for which has already been closed off) next to Alexandra Square, and the eventual demolition of the existing Conference Centre to create a new 'entrance' to the University campus.

The University had originally intended to use Bradford and Bingley as the other main source of finance for Phase 5, but after the bank's share price collapsed recently, putting savers' money at risk, it was brought into public ownership by the Government. The University are now planning to finance the Phase 5 project with a broad consortium of banks, to minimise risk, although at a higher cost to the University in the long run.

Fylde Bar officially re-opened

Fylde Bar was officially re-opened by the University's Chancellor, in a special ceremony last Friday evening.

The bar was closed for most of Summer term last year for extensive refurbishment, only opening just in time for Fylde College's end-of-year Extrav.

Although the bar has been in use throughout the summer vacation, it had not received its official blessing. Sir Christian Bonington CBE, who has been

Chancellor of the University since 2005, cut a ribbon, signalling the bar as open, before pulling the first pint of Doris – a beer from a co-operative micro-brewery local to Sir Christian's home, of which he is a trustee. Bonington, a renowned mountaineer and explorer, led the first successful ascent of Everest's South West face in 1975.

Fylde Principal, Frank Wareing, paid tribute to the input into the remodelling

of the bar by Tim Roca, who was Fylde JCR President before he was President of LUSU last year.

Despite celebrating its opening, the task of furnishing the bar is still not finished. The addition of more soft chairs was planned after University Estates received poor feedback regarding the bistro-esque appearance of the existing high chairs and tables. But this new furniture has yet to arrive.



Replacement Sports Centre plans shelved

Credit crunch squeezes finances Phase 5 project

Dan Hogan

Editor

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Delayed replacements: The University's ageing Sports Centre looks set to be replaced.

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Sir Chris visits campus to open new Fylde bar



Virgin points Lizzette Dawn On looks on as the Chancellor pulls the first pint after the bar is reopened (Photo: Dan Hogan)

Fylde bar officially reopened but controversy continues, pg 2 >

Union Council votes to ban smoking in all residences

Lizzie Houghton

A controversial motion to lobby for a smoking ban in residences across the whole campus was narrowly passed by LUSU's Union Council on Thursday.

The motion, proposed by LUSU President Michael Payne, provoked a lengthy debate in the Council chamber. Ten councillors voted in favour of the ban, with eight against. With both smokers and non-smokers on the Council, the motion was sure to be contentious. The two vote majority was reached after the original motion was amended to aid smokers who would be forced to smoke outside.

In support of the motion were those who felt that injury through passive smoking in residences is unacceptable. As was pointed out, non-smokers often find themselves in flats of smokers, which is unfair when everyone pays the same rent.

The inventory system is already used to enforce compliance. Michael Payne said: "If there's any smell left [in a non-smoking room] people are fined. [Students] know they're going to get a massive fine: I'd say this is a deterrent."

Under the policy, smoking would still be allowed outside as is the already the case. The proposal does not come into effect until approved by the University.

LUSU calls for NUS reform pg 5 >

Carolynne



The Freshers' Issue



Carolynne

Welcome to Carolynne.

Carolynne is the part of SCAN which incorporates the less serious aspects of student and Lancaster life. It consists of four sections:

Culture,
Features, Fashion &
Lifestyle.

Carolynne has a special story of its own, and is apparently even older than SCAN itself. At one point, it existed as the best campus magazine at Lancaster. It was founded in the Michaelmas term of 1964 by William Smethurst, who decided to name the paper 'Carolynne' in order to impress the girl he loved, a Miss. Carolynne Harmsworth. Whilst it might seem creepy in this day and age to name a publication after a girl you barely know, personally I'd like to call it gallant and chivalric. Low and behold, the pair later married and announced their engagement in Carolynne (how nauseatingly adorable). It seems that Smethurst went on

to enjoy a successful careers as a screenwriter, a novelist and a journalist for the BBC. Carolynne published its final edition in December 1971, and faded into non-existence. However, Lizzie Houghton (SCAN Editor 2010), decided to grace our lovely Student Comment and News with its presence, and here we are. This issue, we've decided to fill Carolynne with plenty of advice on Freshers', some gorgeous fashion pieces on what you should be wearing this autumn; in terms of fancy dress and stunning 1920s must-haves. Don't forget to come and find us at Freshers' Fair on both Thursday and Friday, to sign up for the student media and then to see what we have to offer. SCAN is always looking for journalists, photographers, bloggers and people with a knack for a piece of amusing prose. Our Carolynne sections can offer you amazing opportunities, such as reviewing novels and albums hot off the press, attending cultural and fashion events to report on; perhaps even interviewing your favourite band if you get particularly lucky. In short, Carolynne is the place where your wishes might come true, as Mr & Mrs. Smethurst would probably tell you.



Photo by Lucy Lamb

EST.
1967

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Yoko Ono's Half-A-Wind Show: A Retrospective

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark

Ella Whittlestone & Ben Hands

If art has ever picked its favourites then it would be fair to say that Yoko Ono is amongst them, if not at the very pinnacle of the contemporary elite. Commonly referred to as 'the world's most famous unknown artist', Ono's relationship with the late John Lennon and the events that ensued are often regarded as a key factor in her fame, and for many she is nothing more than the woman who split up the Beatles, ending one of the most revolutionary eras in music. The Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark has recently hosted an entire season to Ono, celebrating her colossal input into the art world for more than fifty years; 'Half-A-Wind Show' was the name of one of Ono's earlier exhibitions which pushed at the mental boundaries of contemporary art, and subsequently became the name of this retrospective exhibition. The gallery is vast, hosting an expansive collection of Ono's provocative and often startlingly original works, presented to the viewers in a variety of mediums.

An architectural installation titled 'En Trance' provides the viewer with six different ways of entering the gallery space

- ensuring that all must interact

with her work if only in this basic way. Ono utilises mirrors, cut out sections of wall, a slide, steps, and a narrowing passage to intrigue her audience, drawing them into to a variety of spatial



experiences. Moving through the exhibition one's sensory receptors are teased in all directions, with complex, changing layers of sound and visual arrangement, as well as a number of films which combine the two. Exploration into the decadent array of works on show reveals few traditional approaches to art making; the closest Ono comes to painting is a series of conceptual works with titles such

as 'Painting to be seen in the dark' and 'Painting to be stepped on', neither of which make use of paint.

Other pieces displayed in the

exhibition range from 'Three Spoons' (1967) in which four identical spoons are displayed in a glass case, to 'Four Spoons' (1988), a brass sculpture that depicts three spoons with a phantom fourth spoon present in the viewers mind. These two sculptures are classic examples of how the hype of Ono damaged her work, as she fails to question her own concept any further. For

example, she could have tried to gauge whether a 'spoon' is truly a spoon if it has not been used to consume food, or whether creating something that needs a title so as to be controversial is not slightly presumptuous of her own status. Without the white cube gallery setting Ono's work would perhaps be no more than the ramblings of a lunatic. Despite this clear evidence of fame shifting her modes of production, the most annoying habit that Ono indulged herself with is her moaning and wailing that she claims to be music, which can be heard between the steady coughs from 'Cough Piece' and the screeching soundtrack for her video in which flies crawl on her naked flesh. It seems that where she once found herself conquering difficulty, she later found herself being difficult so that her work was not conquerable. The way Yoko Ono thinks and chooses to communicate these thoughts visually, opens the mind to new and unusual ways of perceiving this world, prompting free flow of thought and imagination. However, between the many keys to the sky and lists of patronising instructions, one sees only a woman who lost her clothes to the scissors of a stranger in the name of art, who became a capitalist pop-star in the false name of peace.

Give peace a chance?
Give peace and quiet
a chance.

Culture Update: What's been going on?

Attendants of the Robin Hood walkabout production this summer in Lancaster's Williamson Park donated over £4000 to homeless charities in Lancaster and Morecambe. This kind gesture was in memory of George Lowery, who slept rough in Williamson Park for many years and sadly died there in March.

Get It Loud in Libraries, a project initially funded by Lancashire County Council, has secured new funding in order to showcase up-and-coming bands in intimate library settings. The project kicked off with a comeback gig from The Charlatans' Tim Burgess at Kendal library on September 24th, but more dates are due to be announced shortly. Lancaster library is set to be a big part of the project's future plans, so watch out for a gig with a difference nearby soon!

Heralded by The Independent as 'probably the best-known poet in the word', Seamus Heaney died on the 30th August at the age of 74. Heaney was the recipient of countless literary prizes in his lifetime, including the Nobel Prize in Literature, and was a professor at both Harvard and Oxford Universities. For an in-depth exploration of Seamus Heaney's influence and legacy read Julia Molloy's piece entitled 'Seamus Heaney's Final Message', available now online.

Six of the Best:

Live at LICA Launch Night Alice Hughes

Want to experience local history come alive and watch a sensational performance in one night this term? First come to Live at LICA's Launch Night on 17th October at the Peter Scott Gallery where artists Raisin & Willow resurrect Winter Gardens, an iconic Victorian theatre in Morecambe. Hear voices of the usherettes, the boy who shone the lime-light and the woman who sold ice-creams resurface alongside lost relics and memories in their exhibition Sea Breeze: An Archive. Then see Transformed Double Bill, commissioned by Green Close, where 'Ghost Bird' questions current persecution through its ghostly tale of nesting pairs of hen harriers in the Trough of Bowland, mirroring the journey from Bowland Fells to Lancaster Castle made by the persecuted Pendle Witches. Similarly, Signs and Wonders contemplates the way we create meaning through artefacts and signs, with focus upon the Lancashire Witch Trials of 1612. Gallery doors open at 6.30pm, entrance to the opening event is free and works will be exhibited until 6th December. After that you can choose from Chetham's Symphony Orchestra in the Great Hall, featuring Frank Gallagher from Channel 4's Shameless famed for his scholarly drunken ramblings, otherwise known as British actor David Threlfall who will be narrating William Walton's Henry V – A Shakespeare Scenario, based on the Oscar-nominated score for Laurence Olivier's popular film adaption of the Shakespeare play. Alternatively, at the Nuffield Theatre there is a provocative performance on offer by Tim Crouch & Andy Smith titled 'What Happens to the hope at the end of the evening', where the odd conversation between old friends opens the enlightening, lawless space between opposites. Tickets can be booked online on the Live at LICA website so book your seat now!



1927: Animals and Children Took to the Streets Sophie Barrett

1927 Theatre Company's Animals and Children Took to the Streets can be equated to a stodgy soup of Dickens grime, gothic rooted horror, and the charm of a Victorian parlor game. I say gothic-rooted horror because the sinister elements of the performance are more luxuriously unsettling than slapstick. The aesthetics are both gorgeous and gross. The Herald's claim that the show is 'sound tracked by cut-glass parlor room piano ditties' successfully articulates the oxymoronic nature of the show. The performance is doubly charming and ominous, most obviously because the tinkling piano is paired with the presence of haunting animations of cockroaches and white painted faces. I suppose that the overall effect echoes a joint direction between Austen and Dickens – it is the love child of the extremes of the canon. Suzanne Anchrade, of '1927' reveals that the performance is designed within the context of three large white screens, upon which animations are projected. 'Everywhere is saturated with cockroaches crawling over the actors'; the actors and animations respond to one another, and their interaction contributes to the weird nature of the show. It appears hyper-real – the audience is subject to layers upon layers of reality, as animations appear alive on top of the actor's bodies. Anchrade reiterates: 'It's as if the actors are trapped in the animations', which I believe has the effect of producing an extraordinarily microcosmic piece of theatre. The white screens are constantly shifting, resulting in a 'quirky and wonky' viewing. The silent film inspiration, and an exaggerated method of miming, echoes the absurdity of Charlie Chaplain's films (if Charlie Chaplain was transported into a hellish wonderland). LICA themselves maintain that the performance is 'wickedly twisted', and boasts a seamless merging of 'live music, performance and storytelling with stunning films and animation.' The Animals and Children Took to the Streets is to be performed at the Dukes Theatre from 7th to 9th November.

Light up Lancaster Lucy Smalley

Last autumn the Lancaster Arts City partnership illuminated the city with an astounding light, sound, film and dance show that encouraged visitors to flock from far and wide. It was considered a huge success, with a wide variety of performances and visual spectacles that allowed visitors to see the city in a whole new light, and best of all it was completely free for everyone to enjoy. Following a great response last year, the Lancaster Arts partners are clubbing together yet again to put together four days of entertainment in different locations across Lancaster. On Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th October stories about the history of Lancaster's beautiful waterways will be told through illuminated installations along the canal at night, leading all the way up to the Lune aqueduct. Friday 1st November will see the heart of Lancaster's city centre animated in a unique night time 'art experience', bringing the streets to life in a combination of music, dance, theatre and film events. Finally, on the evening of Saturday 2nd November, Lancaster's skies will be illuminated by one of the finest fireworks displays in the North West. Fired from the roof of Lancaster Castle, the show will light up the landscape and skyline of the city and promises to be an impressive ending to this string of cultural events. Light Up Lancaster offers an excellent way for both students and the general public to encounter the talent and beauty within our historic city, and with so much happening across the week there is simply no excuse to miss it! For more information and details of timings go to www.artscity.co.uk and download the free Lancaster Arts City app.

Lancaster Events This Term

Lancaster Music Festival Jonathan Doyle

Lancaster Music Festival, now in its fifth year, celebrates the abundance of musical talent that the city of Lancaster has to offer. With over 30 venues and attracting over 140 local, national and international acts, 2013 is set to be the biggest and best year yet! On Friday 11th October, the festival is reaching out to Lancaster University in conjunction with Live at the Oak. The event will be spread across two stages situated in the 'Trough of Bowland' at Bowland College and 'The Northern Oak' at County College. For those who fancy a quiet pint and chat with friends old and new, Bowland will be the place for you as it hosts the acoustic/folk stage. Performing there will be campus bands The Marties, Katie Louise, Molly Warburton and the Shady Days, and Polish folk superstars Paula and Karol. If you feel like something a little livelier, head to The Northern Oak where County will be turning it up to eleven with the rock stage. Campus band Outside October will kick off the night, followed by pop rockers Articles and pop punkers 7 Day Weekend. The Lottery Winners will close the night in style with their vocal harmony-fuelled indie rock, certainly not one to miss! Lancaster Music Festival has three full days of live music to offer, so there is definitely something for everyone. With so many incredible pubs hosting the event, what better time is there to go and explore the city for yourself? For more information about Live at the Oak's events, check out their Facebook page. For a full list of venues and acts participating over the weekend, take a look at the Lancaster Music Festival website.



Litfest Simon James

This year sees the eighteenth annual literature festival in Lancaster – a true highlight for the arts in the North. Once again, poets, novelists, short fiction writers and other storytellers will conduct readings, performances, discussions and more in various venues across Lancaster to bring to you a celebration of the very best literature that humanity has to offer. This year will see the introduction of Joseph Delaney's new novel. Delaney is the creator of Spooks (the TV series which is soon to become a motion picture), and will be reading from his new book the Ghost Prison inside the room that gave it inspiration – one of Lancaster Castle's atmospheric prison wings! Later that same day, performance storyteller Cat Weatherill will be performing Bluebeard, a "magnificently dark, erotic and creepy" journey into obsession, inspired by Perrault's classic gothic horror story. Cat has performed at every major literature festival and on national television, and this "life-affirming celebration of the resilience of women" is going to be one people don't want to miss. Another one to watch out for is Intimate Worlds, featuring two award-winning authors. Alison Macleod (The Changeling) and Evie Wyld (All The Birds, Singing) will both be doing readings from their work and then leading discussions at the Storey Institute. Litfest encourages the production of work too, and there are lots of workshops and competitions. One example of this is Spotlight, the open mic slam which takes a regular monthly event in Lancaster and ups the stakes. Anyone can enter to perform their way to audience acclaim and a cash prize. This is just a small sample of the many different things Litfest has to offer. For more information on all of the events and to book places, visit litfest.org!

Music at LICA Steff Brawn

Last year we saw the music department at Lancaster go through some troublesome times, but thankfully what still remains is a stunning line up of performances in the Live at LICA programme. This autumn the Great Hall will be welcoming talent from all ends of the musical spectrum including stars from jazz, orchestral and contemporary backgrounds. Some expected highlights will be "Serious Cabaret" from the Manchester Camerata in November that should not only appeal to those who enjoy the soprano voice coming from special guest Mary Carewe but will also spark an interest for those who enjoy a bit German history as the programme is intriguingly based on Berlin cabaret and theatre before the rise of Hitler and the Nazis. Another virtuosic performer that will be gracing the stage later in the same month will be Julian Joseph along with his trio who will be entertaining the crowd with some jazz classics and some of his own, no doubt, impressive repertoire. The autumn season also happily welcomes back the Chethams Symphony Orchestra and the regular celebrity recital will come from one of France's finest pianists Pascal Rogé. As always, the autumn programme promises that Lancaster University is one of the greatest homes of music and it's right on your doorstep, so don't miss out and make sure you check more information at www.liveatlica.org.



SCAN at Latitude Festival

Jensen Tuddud

Latitude feels like a festival competing with itself. Even the most experienced festival punters will agree that ‘unique’ best describes this weekend of music and arts. Yet, one or two regulars will still tell you that they regard it as the ‘Glastonbury of the East.’ Here, the variety of music is phenomenal. On Friday, Naomi Keytes, Nick Mulvey and Mikhael Paskalev certainly pushed the ‘i’ Arena stage into our top venues for the whole weekend as they performed their respectively captivating sets.

Two years after having left the Mercury nominated Portico Quartet, singer-songwriter Nick Mulvey is finding his way into the watch list of music critics. He spoke to SCAN straight after his live set to speak about festivals, music and the future. The enthusiastic crowd adored his sound and he expressed a similar sentiment about his set. “It was an absolute pleasure. A lot more people than I expected actually.” Nick was at ease in his surroundings despite it being his first time at Latitude.

In the background, the heavy bass line from the Lake Stage provides a rhythm for our discussion. “I’m amazed, I think it’s absolutely beautiful - the lake is lovely, the line-up is great and I’m staying until Sunday.” A relatively relaxing weekend for this industrious musician, having played earlier festivals, including Glastonbury and then announcing to his fans that he was going to be at Secret Garden Party the weekend after. “A lot of the crowd will perhaps have just turned up because there’s a lot of different music on, the audience is quite disarmed. They’re all kind of quite open. So, crazy things can happen.” Then again, how does an artist get noticed but through working hard? For a while now, watchful eyes have followed the succeeding moves of the former Hang percussion player after having left his band, Portico Quartet. “I was in a band for six years and wanted to write my own songs.”

In 2008, the band’s debut album was Mercury nominated alongside Elbow, Radiohead and Adele. With such success in the past, it certainly is a case of starting all over again for this Cambridge lad. By the time this goes to

print, he would have just finished recording his solo album but until then it was all down to the brilliance of his EP ‘Fever to Form’ - “It’s a very special song to me as it was the first one I wrote after leaving the band.” All this turn events must feel like it has been a long time coming. “Yeah it’s that kind of thing, it’s a release. A relief even, or both.”

Before we let him go to perform his session for a national newspaper, we got onto the topic of artists who make great records and artists who have a special quality when performing live. “I love recording and making albums but playing music to people is obviously - that’s the main thing.”

Finally, we sunk our teeth into what I thought was the festival’s best night. On Sunday, Disclosure brought everyone to life; punters young and old had the best time raving to deep house. Equally phenomenal was James Blake, the dream of every music aficionado.

From the Lake Stage curated by Huw Stephens of BBC Radio 1, standout acts were The 1975 and Dan Croll. Dan found time to speak to us before his set. He tells us that this is his first time at Latitude - he admits he was never a regular festival goer before becoming an artist - for now, he is making the rounds at the festival and touring circuits, securing fans anywhere he can go and laying the foundations for a bright career ahead. “It’s all new to me but it’s great, I love taking it all in. Lots of crazy people.” We ask him

what the highlight of weekend has been so far. “So far at Latitude, straightaway Laura Mvula. We walked out of the van and walked straight into [her] starting her set which was incredible. I really love her music. I just bumped into Local Natives - those guys are fantastic.” Dan agrees that seeing the sublime Laura Mvula would have been enough for the whole weekend. She was so mesmerizing that everyone felt genuinely pained at the cruelty of such a brief half-hour set. “And then we just sat by the lake. It kinda wasn’t what I was expecting, people paint this picture in your head of muddy but this is beautiful so far.”

There was a question that needed to be answered before he carried further: what would be the top three things to bring to festival? See how it compares to Nick’s earlier answer: “Top three things to bring to a festival, I would say, are...you wanna bring a cooling box to keep your booze cold, something to put on your head - a good hat or a headband or something funny. And I would say a bag of nuts to keep you going.” Dan hesitates. “Erm. Beer. Lots of underwear, underwear’s good. And, I don’t know, a surprise item - just something random!” A genuinely relaxing aura unwittingly surrounds this 23 year old. We expected that like Nick, the set he’s about to play will prove a hit with a festival audience. He anticipates that there will be “lots of harmonies, some playing about with some few time signatures, some

dancing. Just all around good fun I think!” Then he delves into specific ground, letting our curious minds into the worries of a live performer. “The intro to the set, will only be the second time we’ve played it. It’s a nerve-wracking one as it’s tricky but when we played it on Friday for the first time in Norway, the feeling of doing it was great, so I’m really excited to do that one again.”

Staffordshire-born Dan Croll is a name that will soon be synonymous to successful singer/songwriter. “It started after I ended a career with a broken leg in Rugby.” Dan owes a fair amount to the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts where he was mentored by its founder, the quite legendary Paul McCartney. True, it’s never been easy to pin him down - he even admits that his music jumps about and changes sound from song to song. In person however, he is a genuine guy who is just staring bright eyed at it all. (Yes, this former rugby player meant the sport.) Both he and Nick are at a cusp where the likely career trajectory is on the way up. As a relatively newer guy to the scene, we ask Dan where he imagines himself to be in a year’s time. “I’m a pretty chilled guy. I’m having the time of my life right now.”

Nick’s latest EP ‘Fever to Form’ is now available to download. Dan Croll’s debut album is set to be released early next year. His latest single is available ‘In/Out’ is available to stream from www.dancroll.com.



Photo by Marc Sethi

Culture Clash: *Rowling Returns*

Sam Squires

J.K. Rowling, to my mind, is one of the greatest Britons walking this very earth. If anyone deserves to be a dame, baroness or queen then J.K. would be first on my list. Her merits as an author hardly need to be mentioned; her book sales which now amount to over 450 million copies across the world, coupled with the sheer unbridled fanaticism she has inspired in thousands of people speaks volumes. She has also proved herself a fierce and moral campaigner, speaking intelligently and articulately on issues of child poverty, tax evasion and tabloid intrusion. In amongst this gushing love letter, what I’m trying to say is that if anyone can make this new film a success then J.K. Rowling is exactly the right person.

It is probably worth remembering that the film based on the book ‘Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them’ is Rowling’s official screen-writing debut, which should excite all Potter fans. This won’t be merely a professional screenwriter’s attempt to interpret what Rowling was describing but instead it will be a labour of love from the very person who nurtured the world of Harry Potter, which amounts to over 3,400 pages of writing and 19 hours of film, not including the expanding Pottermore universe. It’s going to be great because, really, J.K. Rowling unashamedly is a fan. When you read or see an interview with her you can feel the passion and affection she has for the characters she’s created. Just as much as those super-fans who waited for the films to be released outside the nearest Vue, dressed as Dumbledore, Bellatrix Lestrange or Kreacher.

When you also consider that the author of Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, Newt Scamander, is one of her favourite characters, it seems even less likely that this film is going to fail. Set way away from Hogwarts in New York, 70 years before any of the Potter story gets underway it won’t be clinging on to past glories but a fresh start and a whole new perspective on the magical world, one which all fans will gobble up.

Anyone who dares make the predictable greed motive should be

forced to copy out all seven Harry Potter books in gobbledegook. Despite having enough money to buy a medium-sized European country, Rowling has appeared unaffected by her vast wealth. She often donates her money to worthy causes and remains in the UK as a domiciled Tax payer, declaring herself indebted to the British welfare state. Her attempts to remain under her pseudonym Robert Galbraith this year were commendable for those very reasons as well.

There will always be those resistant to the Potter world, who think it not sophisticated enough but they’re

lost causes and one senses J.K. doesn’t write for them. Similarly it’s expected for fans to be resistant to anything which may tarnish the memory of Hogwarts. However, J.K. Rowling more than anyone else deserves trust. She has not let us Potter fans down yet. Every extension of the Potter universe, be it Tales of Beedle the Bard, Pottermore or Harry Potter World has been tasteful and well-received. So when she says “I always said that I would only revisit the wizarding world if I had an idea that I was really excited about and this is it.” We Potter fans should believe her and try very hard not to wee ourselves in excitement.

Simon James

I would like to say now that, like Sam, I am a huge fan of J K Rowling. The moment I found out she had lost her billionaire status because she’d given so much money to charity, I decided all the time I had invested into her work had been well spent. She has always maintained absolute integrity despite being the creator of the definitive contemporary fictional narrative. Enjoyed by children and adults alike, Harry Potter is absolutely incredible from start to finish, and I feel extremely privileged to have grown up with it, queuing outside ASDA or the cinema at midnight for the latest book or film respectively. It is my absolute adoration for J K Rowling that she has left me nothing but disappointed when I heard about Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.

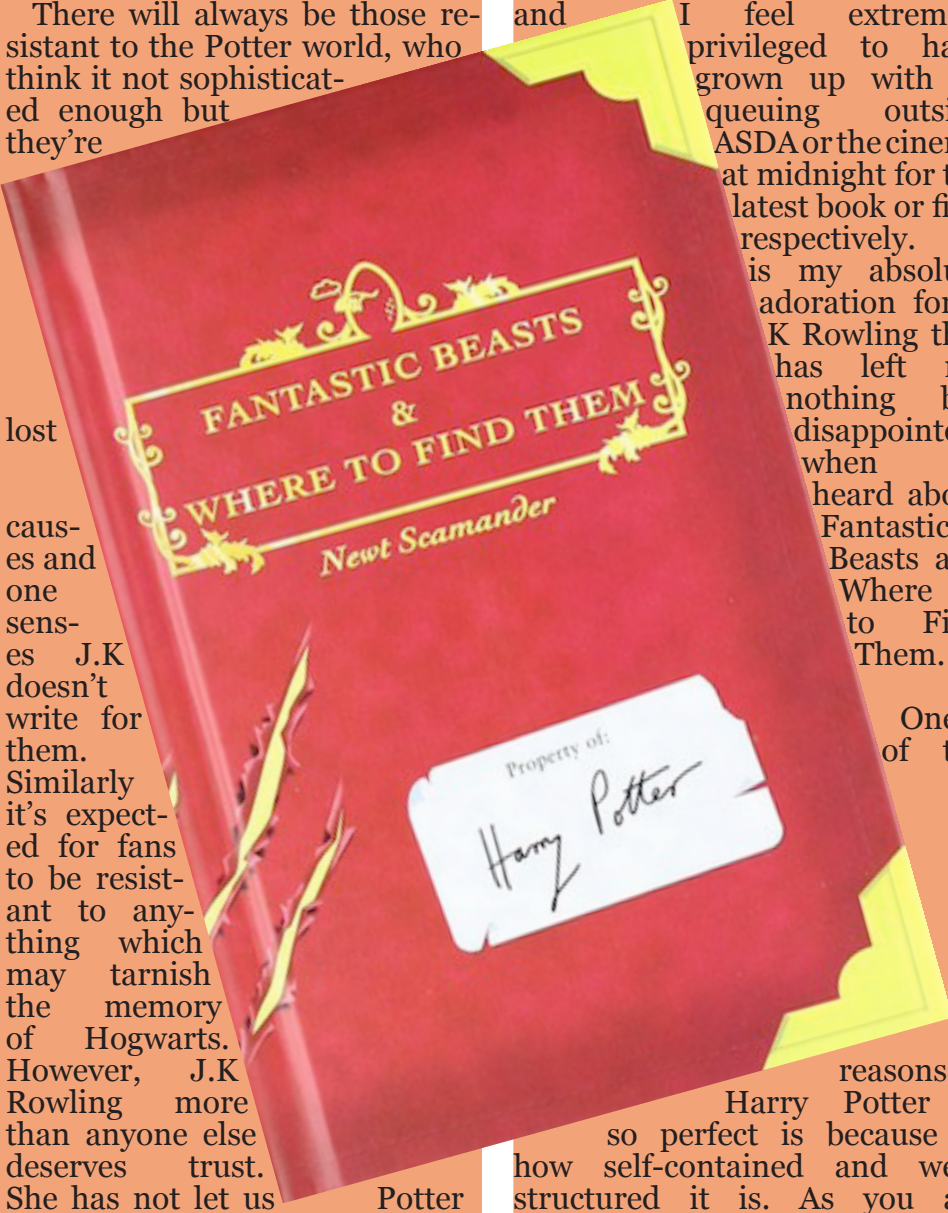
One of the reasons Harry Potter is so perfect is because of how self-contained and well-structured it is. As you are reading it, you can tell that it’s been carefully planned out, that the whole thing is building towards a pinnacle; the final book ties off every loose end flawlessly and everything we need to know outside of the books’ storyline is referenced just enough so we get a complete picture. If you read all seven, you can’t be anything but satisfied. The idea now that something else is to be joined

onto this perfect whole really does frustrate me, and could tarnish the memory of an already completed series.

Fantastic Beasts is already a book, but it’s not a story. It’s a textbook of magic animals whipped up to make money for Comic Relief. I have no issue with it – it’s a quirky addition for fans that does not intrude on the main narrative. But turning it into a film means they’re out to prove there are stories to live up to Harry’s in his universe, and that’s fighting a losing battle: The whole universe was constructed around Harry and everything that is not part of his story is an afterthought. Why can’t Rowling leave it alone and come up with something fresh? Her latest book, The Cuckoo’s Calling, (with a shrewd use of a pseudonym so people can read with fresh heads) was critically acclaimed. She’s proved now that she can do it, so there is no need to keep clinging onto what made her famous. She can be more than just “the woman who does Harry Potter.”

She has said the film is not going to be an addition to Harry’s story, just set in the same world. But everyone is still going to go to the cinema with Harry in mind, looking out for any small references, trying to fill in the 70 year gap between the film and the Philosopher’s Stone. I reckon over half of the country would pay to see anything vaguely attached to the brand – Warner Bros knew they were onto a winner before they’d even pitched the idea. They are milking Harry’s universe dry of good stories and therefore loyal fans of their money.

I do not agree with the generalisation that all sequels are worse than the original. But I do think that when a sequel is designed purely to bask in the success of the original without any new exciting concept (last year’s Taken 2 for example), the story suffers and the film is automatically a failure. I hope that J K Rowling can prove me wrong when I say that Fantastic Beasts, so far, seems to be a product designed purely for a quick turnover, rather than an excellent story that needs to be told as Harry Potter was.



WELCOME TO LANCASTER:

An Introduction to your Colleges

College Spirit Week, an event taking place in week two this term, offers you the opportunity to become a part of your college and contribute to it's legacy. The collegiate system is a huge part of Lancaster University life and will inevitably shape your experience of life here. Be sure to learn your college chants and tweet your appreciation with the accompanying hashtags to make sure that you declare your love of your college loud and proud. But remember, no matter where you end up:

#LOVELANCASTER

County #LoveCounty

Rachel May Quin

The County College, the greatest college by far, if you believe the tales. We're certainly the college with the best Hollywood connections, due to one of our alumni going on to play Gollum in the Lord of the Rings trilogy; Mr. Andy Serkis. Founded originally in 1968 and named for the Lancashire County Council (arguably the best county in England), County was recently refurbished and modernised, with new blocks of accommodation built where Cartmel used to stand. Whilst our official motto is to do it for the council, most County boys and girls know that above all, we “do it for the tree” - our logo is a homage to the gigantic oak tree that lives in the centre of County Main. Just in case you need further proof as to why County is the best college at Lancaster, our original buildings were opened in 1969 by our lovely Queen Elizabeth.

Bowland #LoveBowland

Jensen Tudtud

Being the first, hence the oldest of all colleges at the University, bestows a certain grandeur to Bowland. Followed by Lonsdale at the early beginnings of a covetable collegiate system, it is the “one that started them all”. Named after the Forest of Bowland and whose emblem is the Bowland Lady, the sense of identity and belonging is evident among Bowlanders. Its rivalry against Lonsdale is as fierce as Lancaster's to York, tested annually at the Founders Series - a sporting tournament imitated by many in vain. Above all, despite their competitive streak, few will disagree that Bowland is the friendliest of all.

Cartmel #LoveCartmel

Jonathan Eldridge

The original Cartmel College residences were previously in County South, but in 2003 relocated to South West Campus, along with Lonsdale. The founding principal of the college, John Creed, still has an avenue and a row of buildings dedicated to him in the County college to this day. The distance between Cartmel and central campus is not necessarily a bad thing; many students are fond of the sense of community that stems from this. The Barker House Farm complex lies at the heart of eleven accommodation blocks, and is home to the college bar which offers drinks and perfect “morning-after-the-night-before” sustenance. Newcomers can look forward to an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere and will at some point during freshers' week be expected to adopt the college pose; the Ertz.

Furness #LoveFurness

Heidi Nagaitis

The Furness college motto “everywhere else is nowhere” rings true for many a Furnessian. Being the smallest college on campus, welcoming around 400 freshers each Michaelmas term, Furness is known for its tight-knit community, something greatly envied by the other colleges on campus. In a recent poll the college bar, Trevor, was awarded the title of “best on campus” – it's a firm favourite with students and the starting point for the infamous 15 hour bar crawl, a Furness tradition. Tensions run high once a year during Patriots, when Furness takes on arch rival Cartmel in a host of sporting events (the sillier the better), but ultimately ending in a friendly night out. A true Furnessian has a good sense of humour and a penchant for a cheeky beverage, two of the many qualities which makes Furness the best college on campus.

Fylde #LoveFylde

Jessica Kadel

Formerly known as College 6 back in 1968, Fylde College has progressed to be one of the most embraced and enthusiastic colleges. The Fylde motto “In arvo quaerere verum” – “Seek Truth in the Field” reflects the collective Fylde fidelity. Situated in the heart of campus, Fylde strongly influences the student union and partakes in any event. It's widely recognised for its sporting success, as the college triumphs most competitions due to the patriotism and pride of each member. This reverence is echoed in the repeated mantra “Fylde ‘til I die” which undoubtedly will be bellowed throughout Freshers' week. The strong sense of community renders Fylde a friendly and convivial atmosphere to immerse yourself in.

Lonsdale #LoveLonsdale

Abigail Davies

One of the two founding colleges of Lancaster University, Lonsdale is an age old legend. Being the only college with a resident DJ, Lonsdale prides itself as the party college on campus. Its 2,500 rooms means it doesn't matter whether you are looking for a wild night out in Lancaster town centre or just a couple of “quiet” drinks at the bar; there is always someone at Lonsdale college who is up for it. Rivalled by Bowland at the annual Founders competition, the Lonsdale team spirit permeates the games. In other words, Lonsdale's sense of community is what makes it “simply the best”.

Pendle #LovePendle

Laurence Pullan

Pendle was the seventh college founded in 1974 and was so-named after Pendle Hill. The Pendle area is perhaps most well-known for its association with witches, where nine women were hung after being accused of conducting witchcraft. Pendle College has a proud history of academic and sporting achievements, and the college currently holds the Carter Shield and Legends Shield. The social scene in Pendle is also acknowledged and hosts the only campus-based weekly live music event: Pendle Live, which plays host to some of the best local musical talent. Pendle is a sizeable college with an even bigger heart. Those who are in Pendle often comment on the community feel and the friendliness of staff and students alike. “Altiori Sequamor” is the college motto: Strive to reach the top; and few would dispute that Pendle is a superb well-rounded college at the top of its game.

Grizedale #LoveGrizedale

Bryony Seager

Grizedale College was one of the last colleges to be founded at Lancaster University in 1974. Originally twinned with Pendle and with a cartoon rat (named Depravo) as its mascot, a lot has changed at Grizedale since. Now a powerful force around campus in its own right, with shiny new accommodation and a new bar, Grizedale is often a popular choice with incoming undergraduates. Grizedelians are often considered to be a strong political voice on campus along with having a strong sporting spirit. Along with new buildings Grizedale also ditched Depravo the rat and adopted the Grizedale boar as their new mascot, which in turn led to the university famous Grizedale hog roasts!

Graduate #LoveGrad

Rachel May Quin

Grad College is probabnly one of the most culturally diverse of the colleges, consisting of postgraduate students from around the globe. Grad College aims to create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all of its students, and the Grad bar cultivates a sterling reputation for having the finest ales and ciders thanks to its annual cider festival. The Grad college website describes itself as “an active community to which all postgraduates have a shared sense of belonging, in a supportive environment where students can have a safe enjoyable experience whilst achieving their ambitions.”

Do you really know what binge drinking is?

Julia Molloy

Once again Freshers’ week is upon us. For first year students it can simultaneously be the most exciting and most nerve-wracking week of your life. For continuing students it’s a chance to relive first year memories and introduce Freshers to your college chant. But it’s primarily known as the week where we take on board copious amounts of alcohol, the likes of which our bodies will hopefully never see again (...until next year).

Now, I’m not going to lecture you about drinking alcohol and how abstaining is much better for you. No doubt Freshers are looking to take the edge off their first week nerves and to join in with their new flatmates, and alcohol can be a good way to do this if used moderately. For anyone familiar with the film Just Like Heaven, the character Jay argues that “God gave us alcohol as a social lubricant”, and while none of us are able to say this with certainty, his heart may be in the right place. So I thought, instead of being lectured by a teetotaler like myself, I’d try to give you a bit of a factual eye-opener when it comes to

binge drinking. We’re all familiar with those photographs of fellow young people, particularly young women, who have completely lost control of themselves due to drinking too much too quickly. The media undoubtedly love to dig out such photographs for any piece

re-motely related to alcohol and young people. This is what constitutes binge drinking for the majority of us – drinking so much alcohol to the point where you nearly experience blood poisoning. It’s a state that most of us would say we’d never find ourselves in. But in actual fact, what is commonly known as “binge drinking” starts off as something far more familiar.

Binge drinking, as defined by the NHS, constitutes the “drinking to get drunk” attitude in addition to drinking a lot in a short space of time.

With the Freshers’ week focus being enjoying yourself, which quickly becomes synonymous with drinking to get drunk, it really does suggest that many students are in fact unwittingly binge drinking, and therefore living up to that horrible student stereotype.

There is also uncertainty with what amounts to drinking too much too quickly. Our bodies can only process one unit of alcohol per hour, and the NHS recommends that men only drink three

to four units per day and women two to three units. When you consider that one unit equates to a 175ml glass of wine, it actually doesn’t take much at all to binge drink.

For women, if you drink more than two large glasses of wine fairly quickly your body simply won’t be able to process it; for men, the equivalent is about three pints of strong beer.

It might be worth considering how much your body takes on board during an average night out. If it’s more than the above, binge drinking could be taking its toll on your body. Needless to say, the effect of binge drinking on our health is disastrous. Binge drinking can affect your mood, your memory and even cause you severe liver problems.

This communal threat of bodily damage is certainly a sobering thought. Amidst all the media propaganda and general opinion concerning binge drinking, we’ve lost sight of judging our own drinking habits. However, the best advice to take during this nail-biting week is summed up nicely in the recent nationwide campaign: Easy Tiger. **“Take things easy. You’ll soon feel better for it”.**

The typical guide to Freshers’ stereotypes

Bryony Seagar

Okay, so you’re away from home, possibly for the first time. The thing at the forefront of your mind probably isn’t your studies or which societies to join; you’re thinking about your flat mates. *Will they be like? Will you be friends? What if they’re all party animals and secretly you prefer a glass of wine and a good movie?* Well, apart from telling you the obvious and slightly pointless “don’t worry”, this article will introduce you to some of the people you may meet in your first week. However, please note: people don’t fit directly into the cookie-cutter shape of stereotypes.

It’s moving day and you hesitantly push open the door to your new flat. You’ve got your arms full of boxes of items, some of which you’re not even sure what to do with (a blender – really Mum?) and you expect some kind of party to be going on already. In fact, what you’re met with is someone washing their new plates in the communal kitchen. Meet **“the**

neatie”. This is the person who’ll leave sticky notes on your cupboard because your tea towel is a bit dirty, or if you’re the person who tries to play Jenga with the rubbish in the bin.

You stare as the neatie wipes the clean counter tops, before the door bursts open once again and your ears are assaulted by a barrage of noise. Here is **“the LAD”**. This guy suffers from FOMO (*Fear Of Missing Out*) and consequently goes out every night of the week to try and combat that. The idea of actually doing any work is anathema to this guy, and by week three he’ll never grace a lecture hall again. That is to say, until two weeks before final exams when he discovers that that building where people seem to disappear to for days at a time is actually called the library, and he may need to spend some time in there. Possibly.

Leaving the kitchen, you go out into the hallway only to bump into someone who isn’t doing any of their own unpacking; his mother is. Not that it’s just his room she’s

helping with; he’s hoping that the 4,648 freezer trays of spag bol she’s cooked for him are going to get him through the year. This is the **“Mummy’s boy”**. He’s out of his depth; he’s never been away from home before (nothing wrong with that), but sadly he doesn’t know one end of a bed sheet from the other. The first month might be a tough for this guy, so spare him a smile and a slice of pizza from time to time.

You move on, only to hit by tsunami of perfume. Has the person in question used it, or bathed in it? This is your **“pony club girl”**. Her uniform consists of Jack Wills and a semi-beehive hair do, and most of her life revolves around animals. She’s bubbly and upbeat and will talk about horses – a lot. Most of the time it’s just best to nod and agree. You can already see the animal calendar she’s pinned to the wall and you swiftly move on before you’re roped into helping pin her rosettes to her wardrobe.

You finally reach your room and

dump your belongings, wondering where on earth to start. Just as you unzip your (first) suitcase there’s a knock at the door, and it opens to reveal a someone dressed in a business suit and Jaeger heels; you can’t decide whether they’re a student or about to audition for The Apprentice. They introduce themselves, stick out their hand and offer you a business card all in the same second. This must be **“the keeno”**. She headed up basically everything at school, and is slightly worried that she may have peaked too early. She’ll try and make up for this by getting to know everyone she can, join every society in an attempt to lead it to greatness, and also get top grades. You’re not entirely sure how she does it but you wish her luck and promptly close the door.

Joking aside, the variety of characters you’ll meet at university is boundless. Most of them will be wonderful and you’ll get on great with; here you’ll meet both your best friends and your good-time mates. Enjoy it.



Photo by Lucy Lamb

For the love of Facebook, STOP SOCIAL NETWORKING

Jonathan Eldridge

You’ve just arrived at university, unpacked your things, bungled a few hellos to your fellow flatmates and now sit waiting, with anticipatory jitters, for the night’s events to begin. What now? There’s nothing to do between your over-eager arrival time and the awaited evening. Half of your flatmates aren’t even here. Why not tweet, update your status, or take a cheeky “selfie”? These are the time fillers of our modern age.

For years now, new technologies have been growing exponentially. Particularly central to this boon of technological dynamism has been the rapid emergence of social networking sites, allowing us to share every detail of our lives. Proponents of this new age of inter-connectivity frequently expound upon the benefits of these things; ask yourself how many times you have heard someone preaching about being ‘better connected than ever before.’ New technology aims to make it ‘easier’ for us to live, and save us time. This should be a good thing; we can perhaps use this time to search for meaning in our lives if we’re feeling existentially downcast, or simply use it for pleasure – the more time we have to do the things we like, the happier we will be, it is assumed.

We seem however, to use this gift of time by being glued to technology. This, instead of allowing our happiness to flourish, traps us in the homogenous world of addiction and dependence. A recent study found that half of Britons are affected by nomophobia – the fear of being without a phone. The shiny screen of a smartphone is where a substantial amount of social interaction takes place nowadays; people can use these devices for almost anything. This increases our dependence on technology because we perceive that we cannot cope without our beloved gadgets – we tend to forget that there was ever life before mobile phones. I have been widely ridiculed by friends who see my functional yet basic phone as a sort of archaic machine; you’d think I was using two

plastic cups attached by a piece of string. This stretches far beyond a mild addiction to our phones in non-social situations; often, our attention is divided because even when we are socialising in the real world, we cannot bear to be torn adrift of the virtual one. Addiction is inherently unhealthy; especially when it’s accepted as the supposed norm.

How many times have you toyed with the idea of quitting Facebook, Twitter or Instagram?

If you’re similar to me, the answer is quite a few. Yet, we only entertain, and do not actualise these illusions of cutting loose. So much of our everyday activity has been transferred to these modes of communication, that it is extremely difficult to unplug ourselves, so to speak.

Another occurrence that has arisen from social networking is the insignificance of communication. I would wager that the majority of information shared publicly on

these sites is completely useless and superficial – this trend is maintained by the existence of a blind, nihilistic culture, typified by the phrase ‘YOLO’. Social networking sites allow people to air their bigoted and needless views all over the place – there is constant opportunity to be social – this means ‘socialising’, in the modern context, loses some of its fulfilling characteristic.

The thing about this constant blogging, re-blogging, updating etc. – is that interaction becomes stilted, and events lose the richness of its meaning. Average-Joe will look at an Instagrammed shot of someone’s pricy dinner, look at his own and think; ‘well, this is *expletive deleted*’. A marvellous vista, filled with snow-capped peaks, becomes just a nice view. Everything we do must be typed out or photographed, which detracts from the uniqueness of the situation. Why go to a concert, only to watch it all through the screen of your video camera? The pointlessness of our use of these sites can be juxtaposed with the pioneering use of them by those wishing for democratic change in the Middle East. This proves that

social networking sites can reap gains if used in the correct way – or, because we aren’t all activists, if we use them in moderation. It is a wonderful thing to capture a moment, but we want to capture and record a monumental amount of moments. With the onslaught of globalisation and the burgeoning online community, our individualism is being slowly quashed by the pressure to be part of this modern collective. Although, psychologically, this may be damaging to our sense of worth – we simply become another digit in the digital age – detachment is extremely difficult because we cannot relinquish the sanctuary that being part of a whole gives us. Most of us would become insecure if we removed ourselves from this sphere for even a few days; and although being part of the virtual world can be constricting, we’re too scared to let go just in case we fall at some point.

Take the plunge; free yourself from the constraint of social networks. Go a day without your phone. De-activate your Facebook account. Avoid posting any pictures online. I bet you can’t.



Photo by Mae Reddaway

The side-effects of university:

(Nausea, fatigue & endless lists of recommended reading)

Rachel May Quin
Editor

Welcome Freshers’ week, if you somehow hadn’t noticed it was that time of year again. For those of us who are long past the lazy, hazy, crazy days of first year; coming back to university for the start of a chilly (inevitably rainy) Michaelmas term is either a blessing or a curse.

Writing as a jaded, and quite frankly, sleep-deprived female heading into her third year of undergraduate life, the thought of going out drinking every single night for an entire seven days makes my head throb in anticipation of a hangover. Drinking aside, there’s so much more to student life than just bars, boozy nights and waking up looking like the lovechild of a panda/prostitute with eyeliner smudged all down your cheeks - which happened to me a lot, I might add.



Photo by Lucy Lamb

University life will quickly begin to shape who you are and who you will be in the future.

It will show you what life is like without your parents constantly being there to do your washing, cook your meals and bail you out if you find yourself short of cash. Essentially, university life will either make you into an independent, self-sufficient human being (or what I like to call, ‘a proper grown-up’, or it will make you want to curl up and cry because you miss the comforts of home and the simple joy of those long ago days where the most responsibility placed on you was remembering to feed your respective pets.

The most important thing to remember though, if you ever find yourself feeling low during this wonderful university experience, is that probably every student has been there. Especially during your first year, you’ll have moments - most likely on cold, dark,

miserable winter evenings after a particularly dull lecture - when you’ll barricade yourself in your room, create a duvet cocoon and wax nostalgic over how much you miss your fluffy pets/widescreen TV/friends.

I promise you though, those moments won’t last long. By the time you reach the end of first year, you might find that going home is one of the worst things that could ever happen to you.

Personally, living without parents for a year and having a full-time job up for grabs in Lancaster over the summer made the thought of returning home for three months hard to stomach.

Some people discover that once you’ve had that taste of freedom and independence (ice cream for breakfast anyone?), there’s simply no going back. Having parents around telling you to set the table and wash the dishes makes you want to run screaming back to your messy student kitchen.

There’s no reason to feel guilty about if you find yourself choosing a cosy weekend with your flatmates over going home every single weekend. If anything, it’s probably the most natural thing in the world. Even baby

birds have to leave the nest at some point y’know.

For those of us in advancing years, this advice is something that you’ve probably already worked out yourself by now. If you’re anything like me, you’re approaching your third year swamped by scraps of paper that are really important for reasons you forgot three months ago, deadlines, and you have so many books lying around your bedroom it’s like a literary bomb went off.

We’ve all seen that irritating tweet circulating lately, which basically says something along the lines of “1. Sleep, 2. Social Life, 3. Good Grades - **YOU CAN ONLY PICK ONE!!**” - like some diluted student version of Saw. Unfortunately though, it probably is the case.

When the proper grown-ups of the world think about students, they tend to stereotype us as lazy, drunken layabouts who are doing their very best to dodge paying taxes for three years. Actually, it seems like most students I know of are trying to juggle studying, extra-curricular activities and part-time jobs just to stay afloat. So take that, grown-ups.

Which brings us to the side-

effects of university that nobody ever told us about and are definitely not alcohol related: nausea (at those deadlines that never seem to go away), fatigue (because you stayed up all night to write that essay, **again**) and that ‘recommended’ reading list your tutor gave you that would genuinely take you the next 40 years to plough your way through.

What can you do? Well, you can join the student newspaper and write a really long article complaining about it. Or, you can make the best of it - as I plan to do write after I’ve finished this.

Every single graduate will tell you that they miss university, purely because it offers you so many different opportunities to do what you love, and meet people that will have a huge impact on your life; be it a new best friend or finding that special someone.

Yes, I just used the phrase special someone.

Whatever stage of Lancaster life you’re entering this year, be sure to embrace every second of it.

Motivational speech over.

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Student lock-ins: How to bag a bargain

Georgina Jones

One of the greatest benefits of being a student is that you get to take advantage of the infamous student discount that's offered by a number of shops on the high street. Once fresher's week is over and everyone's bank balances have taken a significant hit, us students are likely to only part with our money if we're getting a bargain out of it.

This is where student lock-ins come in.

In the past, River Island, New Look and Internacionale have offered student lock-ins in Lancaster. These events see the stores close down to all but students, provide the savvy shoppers with drinks and a DJ

whilst they browse the discounted clothes.

To make the most of Student Lock-ins, arrive early and have an idea of what you want to purchase ahead of time, setting yourself a budget might also come in handy unless you fancy not eating for the rest of the year.

As it's the start of a new term, you should look to pick up pieces that will see you through the year so you're not wasting any of that precious student loan. Lancaster's fluctuating (although usually always freezing) weather has to be kept in mind, so when it comes to nights out you want durable flats and heels that can withstand all weather



conditions, and maybe also the dreaded nightclub floor. Unless you're really brave, don't opt for open toes – you have been warned!

Keep a look out for jeans, they are a wardrobe staple which can be worn all year, and you can't go wrong investing in a new coat. Pale pink is a top trend this season, but I'd be wary of getting splashed by a passing car or bus, so perhaps limit any pink fetish to lipstick, nails and accessories until summer comes around again. If all else fails, a leather jacket or little black dress will never go out of style and can't be ruined by a spilled drink in Sugar.

The moral of the story is to keep your eyes

peeled for up-coming Lancaster lock-ins, however, if you want a date for your diary Preston's St. George's Shopping Centre is hosting a huge lock-in on the 1st October, 6pm-9pm. You can find out more by searching online.

Happy shopping and good luck!



Photos courtesy of londontheinsidestyle

The curse of the college top

Damien Gray

Let's set the scene.

It's the beginning of your University life and you have been treated to a new t-shirt courtesy of your college exec. However, you've just found out you have to wear it pretty much every night of the next week in order to get into the Freshers events.

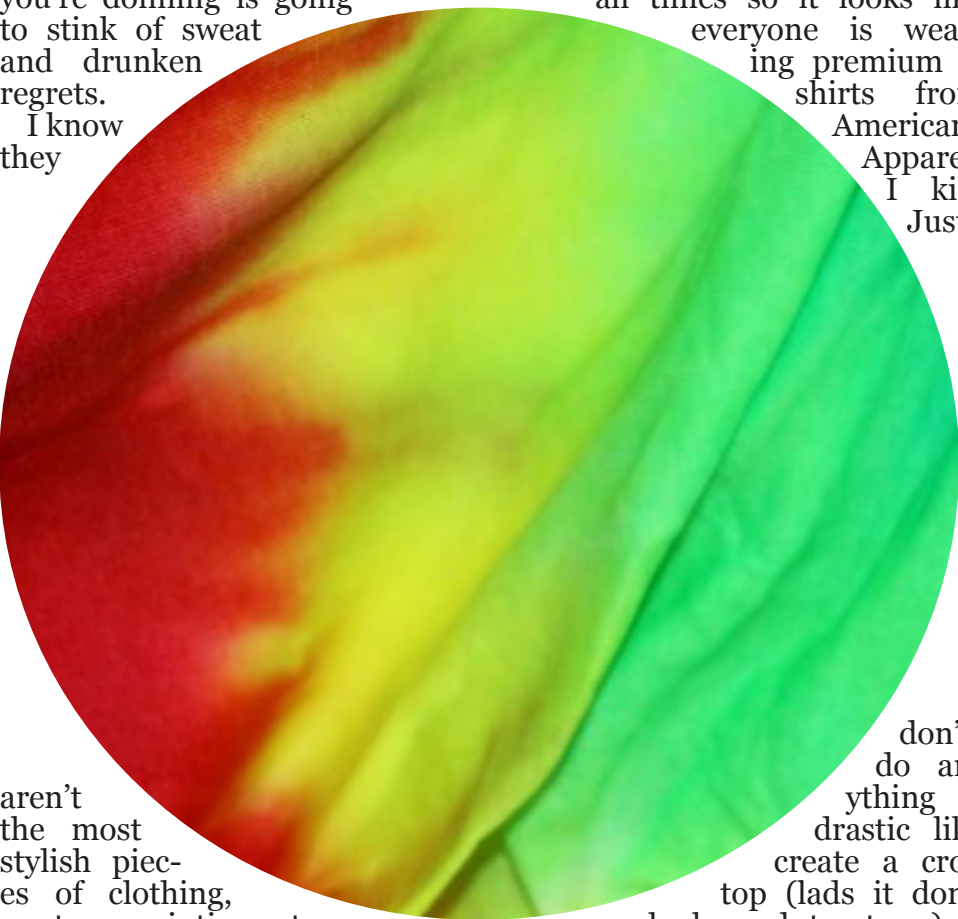
Your first thought: "It's bad enough that it has a witch/tree/dragon on the front but it's also in this horrendous colour... I best change it up".

Please Freshers, think before you act. My County fresher tee is somewhere at the back of my wardrobe about the size of a dishcloth after all the 'editing' I did to it.

You may think that hacking off the sleeves to make a vest top, or savaging the bottom to create a few frills, will improve your freshers tee; it really won't. As the nights go by, you start to wish you had a little more coverage as, let's face it, three days in the rag

you're donning is going to stink of sweat and drunken regrets.

I know they



aren't the most stylish pieces of clothing, so try squinting at

all times so it looks like everyone is wearing premium t-shirts from American Apparel. I kid. Just

give the illusion of the tee being slashed for a jungle themed night (you'll regret it in one hour along with everyone else).

Another thing to look out for with the fresher tees is the dreaded Sharpie. Yes it's great fun to write 'Insert Here' with a huge arrow pointing to your behind, but the chances are 1 in 10 are going to do the same. Boys, if you're going for 'lad banter' at least be a little more inventive.

On a serious note, these tees are pretty vital in you finding your way around campus, meeting people from your college and getting into all your events, so wear them with pride. I'm not saying leave your t-shirts as they are, but try to think a little outside the box. If you do want to turn your tee into a bikini, perhaps wait until the last night of Freshers.

Oh and remember to never wear it again. That's a crime akin to wearing crocs.

don't do anything drastic like create a crop top (lads it don't look good, trust me) or

Downton Abbey bringing back the roaring 20s style

Sophie Grace Barrett
Carolynne Editor

dresses.

The age of elegance is therefore also an age of radical change.

The fashion world is once again shaping itself around the glamour associated with the Sunday night period-drama 'Downton Abbey', with Ralph Lauren's 2013 fall collection reflecting timeless elegance through modern takes on English heritage luxury.

The Edwardian costumes have pushed forward lavish period fashion, from runway to high street, but the first place to find authentic luxurious clothes are Vintage boutiques. The costumes brim with embellishment, silks, velvets, furs, leathers, spandex, lace, and feathers. Sequined and feathered veiled caps are reflective of the chic Edwardian elegance that is more refined than Victorian adornment, and yet decorative enough to boast glamour.

Downton Abbey's women are radical. Season 4 (airing currently at 9pm every Sunday on ITV 1), dramatises the post-World War One period, and introduces ankle-revealing skirts, women wearing tweed, and the plunging neckline in diamond-dripping evening

Fashion is beautiful and sophisticated yet also questioning of the boundaries between what is considered to be male and female. The introduction of trousers for women, for example, is dramatized in 'Downton Abbey' as being shockingly daring yet bohemian and exotic. The new comes with both concern, and approval – modern clothing concepts bring about dichotomous reactions. Such head-turning reactions to classic items (such as the mixture of Edwardian and post-war costumes in the TV drama) are positive – fashion is not about conformity, but about breaking away from the 'norm', and looking both backwards and forwards.

Fashion is constantly returning to previous eras

(Note the current 50s peplum style, leggings from the 80s and Victorian Gothicism).

Looking back to the glamour associated with 'Downton Abbey's' depiction of high-society luxury is, in fact, to push forward, in the fash-



ion world. To break modern stereotypes by taking inspiration from the past creates a clash of eras and a fresh outlook on a previous trend.

When looking at the 'Downton' costumes for inspiration, focus upon the wardrobe of Lady Mary, who combines sweeping jewel-toned evening gowns with tight-fitted netted sleeves and gothic chokers, and also note the use of hats as fashion statements. Cloche hats, straw hats, veiled hats and caps are all utilised to create a sense of mystique and draw attention to the face.

Tweed jackets also give an air of English luxury heritage; maintaining a practical charm as well as glamour.

Lace, embellishment and flapper-esque fringing give a sense of timeless romanticism, and when paired with tweed blazers, are instantly wearable.

Finally, think pastel shades;

Pale pinks, lavenders, mint greens & buttercup yellows



Images courtesy of Miss Selfridge & Next

The *stylish* face of fancy dress

Heidi Nagaitis
Fashion Editor

The start of the Michaelmas term is normally welcomed by students at universities across the country. The long summer holidays leave many bored of part time jobs, with most looking forward to the onset of Freshers' week.

For those of us who've already experienced all Lancaster has to offer throughout the hazy, packed seven days of Freshers'; so notorious that for weeks after, illness is blamed on the dreaded 'Freshers flu', the week is something to look forward to.



However, for those just starting their university career, Freshers' week can be a little daunting. If it's not the prospect of moving to a new city that's keeping soon-to-be undergraduates awake at night, it's the impression you make during Freshers' week when meeting flat mates, seminar groups and college members that becomes yet another worry for new students. This can be somewhat complicated by the plethora of activities organised for Freshers' week, with many involving fancy dress.

Gone are the days when a hurriedly thrown together costume is deemed acceptable. One lesson that most students have learned is that the perfect fancy dress outfit is as important as any essay - it takes time, imagination and effort to create something great. Therefore, to make your Freshers' week

looks the talk of the JCR, here are my top tips to give your fancy dress the edge.

1. Do it yourself

As the week draws near, the temptation to play it safe becomes increasingly attractive. A number of online auction and fancy dress sites offer students 'good quality' costumes for under 20 quid and this seems to solve the problem of the costume conundrum. My advice? Don't go there.

Girls, whatever you buy won't fit or, if the term 'sexy' is used in the description, believe me it's not meant to. Instead of spending your student loan on a ready-made pirate outfit, try to be creative. Rummage in charity shops for a costume on the cheap. Post-Uni, students donate their fancy dress to mark the start of adult life (depressing, I know).

The on-campus St John's Hospice shop is goldmine of pre-loved 'Where's Wally' glasses and animal masks, so if you're stuck pop in for a bargain.

Alternatively, buy material from local markets or reuse fabric from home to make costumes. You'd be surprised what you can fashion from a 2mx1m fake fur sheet. If you must part with money, stay sensible; you can do no wrong in a morph suit.

2. Death to the Sexy Cat

Every year students rock up to Intro Week events in the same old costumes. Think outside the box and, regardless of how stupid you look, opt for something unusual rather than channeling Regina George in Mean Girls.

Last year, one Extrav was graced by the presence of a student dressed as King Kong heroine Ann Darrow in her signature white dress. The girl had fashioned a giant gorilla hand out of stuffed tights which were wrapped around her torso. By choosing a clever costume over PU leather,

she was able to add a little humour to proceedings and definitely didn't go unnoticed.

Always start with the phrase 'What would Mc-



Queen do?' and you'll never need costume inspiration.

3. Two Heads are better than One (especially if you're a pantomime horse)



It's common knowledge that the more people who follow a fancy dress theme, the more impressive the outfit. So channel the Anchor-man boys in sharp suits and Stetsons, slap on the blue body paint as Avatars or peaked sugar paper hats as Crayola Crayons and feel confident in your costume. T

his also means that if you choose an unusual outfit, you've got someone else to feel awkward with.

But remember: **Never leave a man behind.**

Ditching your partner, or fellow Smurf, is a sin and could cause more of a headache than a hangover on Sunday morning.

The colleges have a variety of fancy dress events this Freshers' week including high school stereotypes at Furness, pub golf at Grizedale and Lonsdale and an animal theme at Fylde. Get your Oompa Loompa on at Pendle, whilst the 'C for Cartmel' and County's Toy Box theme give you the opportunity to get creative.

Stuck for ideas? Ask your Freshers' reps for advice and they (probably) won't lead you astray.

VINTAGE LANCASTER:

Sophia Spiropoulos

For such a small city, Lancaster has a surprising number of offerings in terms of vintage shops. Alongside the common parade of charity shops in the town centre, there are a few vintage treasures tucked away down Lancaster's dank side streets. I hope to offer you local guidance to both rookies and veterans of the vintage world.

4 Gage Street, The Vintage Shop

If you're relatively new to the whole 'vintage' thing, then The Vintage Shop is an easy start. This small, bedroom-sized, twee, nook of a shop is decorated with bunting and old Blondie vinyl covers on the walls; home to a fantastic selection of daywear for both guys and gals. A haven for those who love woolly jumpers and battered brogues with delightfully reasonable prices, The Vintage Shop is the perfect

fly-trap for students.

53 King Street, The Exchange

The Exchange is an interesting addition to Lancaster's vintage finds; not only can you purchase some fabulous pre-loved dresses but you can also sell your own out-grown loves. This store boasts some old designer pieces and tends to be on the more expensive-side...That said there are some more affordable treats to be found if you're willing to rummage!

19 Sun Street, The Vintage Boudoir

With a true boutique feel, The Vintage Boudoir exudes elegance. Glittering brooches and cocktail rings which would not have looked out of place on Elizabeth Taylor's bureau are scattered across surfaces and sequins sparkle upon the hanging gowns - The Vintage

Boudoir offers garments fit for a lady. The basement houses some dapper menswear with smarter shirts, trousers and men's shoes.

23A Brock Street, Peely Pops Vintage

With a shop window full of paisley and floral scarves, six-month-old Peely Pops Vintage has anything but six-month-old treasures waiting inside. Accommodating a collection of women's clothes between 30-90 years old and a basement filled with menswear, Peely Pops Vintage has something for everybody and a good search will unearth some true bargains too.

King Street Assembly Rooms, Malcom's Palace

(More commonly known as Malcom's Back Room)
No discussion of the vintage

shops in Lancaster would be complete without the mention of Malcom's infamous back room. This is Lancaster's one-roomed answer to Shoreditch; a cavernous, 5-foot-high room (think less room, more attic) houses an array of dresses, jackets, trousers, shirts, shoes, hats and scarves in leather, velvet, tweed, chiffon and everything in between. Malcom's back room is not for the fainthearted - customers are expected to haggle for a good price, while the ever-eccentric Malcom pops out from behind rails of retro clothes and tries out his latest stand-up routines on baffled customers.

Lancaster is full to bursting with vintage delights.

Make-up trends

Bryony Isabella Seagar

Pick your mood. Are you happy, sad, or even feeling a little bit sinful? Okay, now think about what colour portrays that mood and use it liberally, when you're applying your make up. The trends for autumn/winter are all about putting exactly how you're feeling on your face and in your hair. Whether it's a rebellious, ladylike, romantic, childish, summery or wintry day in your world; explore what that could mean for your make up look.

Whether it's **bold** retro eyes or **shocking-pink** coloured lips, the season for experimenting with colour is definitely here.

Have you got a bright red/pink/orange lipstick hiding at the back of your make up bag which you've always wanted to wear but always thought it was a bit too "dressy/vampy/unsuitable"? Throw out all the old conventions and wear colour loud - you could even pair it with a colourful/bold eye if you're

feeling truly brave (or going for a sixties retro look).

Yes, the rainy season is coming (or is that just Lancaster?) but with your fiery lips and your bright striking eyes you can put your own injection of sunshine into the surroundings.

On the subject of hair, I breathed a sigh of relief when I saw the majority of this seasons trends were to do with leaving it looking natural; either that or putting it up in an easy twist or a messy plait. Never having been a particular pioneer when it came to taming my hair, the idea of having to do sweet nothing with it was extremely appealing.

If you do feel like having a go at one of the more interesting styles of the season then go for the slicked back look. It was all over the AW 13 catwalks and again involves little effort on your part.

In a nutshell the motto of this season is be brave, experiment, and break your conventional beauty boundaries.



Freshers Week 2013

Monday 30th September - Friday 4th October

Activities Showcase

Alexandra Square

Mon 11am – 3pm | Tues 10am – 3pm | Wed 11am – 3pm

Freshers' Fair Part 1

Clubs and Societies | Great Hall and LICA

Thurs 12-5pm*

*Priority entry before 2pm with freshers' wristband

Freshers' Fair Part 2

LUSU and local businesses | Great Hall

Fri 12-4pm*

*Priority entry before 2pm with freshers' wristband

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An open letter to my first year self: Lizzie Morrison & Hayley Schubert

Dear Lizzie,

You are about to plunge into the murky depths of 'third year' and during your time at Lancaster you will battle your way through hangovers, essays, and mountains of washing up, and will almost certainly drink your bodyweight in tea, twice over. You are going to, of course, become older (though not necessarily wiser), far too familiar with a bottle of vodka, and feel rather nostalgic as you embark on your final steps of your university journey - and what a journey it will be.

You will sit in coffee shops ranting with more pretentious pals about what's wrong with the world and how you would do it better.

You will pour your heart out to strangers who become your best friends.

You will cry with both laughter and sorrow, probably at the same time. God knows, there are going to be bumps and cracks in the road along the way, but you'll somehow make it to the final hurdle. And so here are some not-so-wise words that I share with you, my former Fresher self.

Be yourself. You're going to spend three years doing this university business, so you may as well do it right. Those nights before you were a Fresher, wondering and worrying about being accepted and fitting in? Forget about it. You're going to have the most amazing friends who will see you through this glorious time. These are the people who will see you at your best, your worst, and everything in-between. They will love you more than you can ever know, all because you are you. So be you, and more importantly, be proud to be you. Okay, motivational speech over.

It's okay to be homesick. And it's okay not to be. Don't feel guilty

when you rearrange Skyping your parents so you can go out with your friends. They won't lose any sleep over it- they're expecting you to destroy your liver; you're a student now. Equally, don't feel bad telling your housemates that the reason you're bummed out is because you miss your mum's hugs. They'll understand, cause as clichéd as it sounds, you're all in the same boat.

Don't fall out with people over the washing up. It really isn't worth it. No one came to uni to become a domestic goddess after all.

It's okay that you'll hit second year and suddenly a quiet night drinking in Spoons sounds more appealing than getting smashed in Hustle. It's okay that you're going to get old. You'll remember second year just as much for the drunken conversations as for your drunken dancing.

Take the opportunities thrown at you. Join societies, run for an exec position, try something new. Your time at University is your time to shine, and shine I'm sure you will.

So work hard and be sure to play even harder. Good luck, not that I think you'll need it. Something tells me you're going to turn out just fine.

Love,

Lizzie.



Dear new-to-be-fresher Hayley,

I know you are a bundle of emotions right now. A mixture of curiosity and excitement with a large helping of anxiety, but I would hand on heart love to be in your position again, as you take that life changing step to becoming an undergraduate.

I'm not saying the next year is going to be a smooth one, there will be a time when you sit crying to your parents on Skype as you furiously search for apprenticeships back home, vowing that you are going to quit your course. However, you stick with it and there's light at the end of the tunnel as you finish your first year with a first. Yes that's right, despite the late nights watching every episode of New Girl and early mornings partying until your feet are sore at Sugar; your brain manages to forgive you.

You are worried what people will think of you, asking yourself if you look 'fat' in every outfit you try on. Stop this right now. Just because you fancy some custard creams one night and find yourself an hour later with an empty packet, it does not mean you look less attractive when donning some ridiculous fancy dress outfit the next weekend. You will make some wonderful friends and not one of them will care what you look like, just as long as you have a drink in your hand and a smile on your face; although you may want to invest in some running leggings that are a little less see-through than the pair you own now. I learnt this the hard way!

You will join a few societies, but ultimately will only stick with one, doing what you love the most – writing for SCAN.

The trampolining society was fun to start with, but as everyone progressed and you still flailed around in the air looking like a startled turtle, you thought it was best you put that one to bed. Likewise, after going to one cheerleading practice and realising you had less coordination than the Thunderbird puppets, you decide to keep your dance moves strictly for nights out when everyone is wearing their beer goggles.

You will, however, realise you have a plethora of other talents. Extrav will be a prime opportunity to reveal your hidden make-up artist persona as you get more than a little creative with face paints and eye shadow pallets. You will also discover that you can fit in to a hamster cage whilst drunk. Worryingly, you will go on to value this fine skill much more than some of your other achievements, such as the fact you will decide to become a weekly volunteer at Barnardo's or successfully become a Freshers' Rep.

I don't want to alarm you, but there will be an unfortunate incident meaning you have to call an ambulance for yourself. However, there is always a first time for everything and University epitomises this. Likewise, you will face your fear of catching a train by yourself and will even show signs of becoming a domestic goddess as you learn the art of cooking, familiarise yourself with the washing machine and become borderline obsessive with dusting your room.

Ultimately, your first year will be what you make it, so make it amazing. Oh, and don't give up the search for a hangover cure, they only get worse as the year progresses!

Love,

Hayley.

(A much more open-minded you in one year's time.)

How to survive Freshers' Week

Emily Haigh

Freshers' Week

is that special time in every undergraduate's life, often thought of as a blur of new places, new faces; and just a short space of time until that new place becomes your home sweet home, and that new face becomes your BFF. Oh, not to mention it's one of the best experiences of your life. Albeit, this time is the pinnacle of a fun-filled university life, but here are a few things to consider if the beginning of a new year gets a little overwhelming.

Imagine the thousands of young adults moving into their halls this autumn, being tightly squeezed into confined clubs and lecture theatres, replacing sleep with drinking their body weight in vodka and living off a diet of takeaway - it's unsurprising that the majority of students aren't exactly a vision of health when those 9am lectures suddenly creep up on us. Spending a whole day in bed nursing a hangover is one thing, but can you imagine being missing out on all the fun because you're confined to your room feeling really, properly ill? Didn't think so! Believe me,



the infamous Fresher's Flu is no myth, but those dreaded germs can be kept at bay in the following (really simple) ways.

Your first point of call is some good old fashioned H2O

- it is absolutely essential to keep hydrated! Not only will drinking plenty of water keep you, y'know, awake, it will flush out all of those horrible toxins and probably do the world of good for your skin, so you don't look like an extra from the Walking Dead.

Next, don't neglect your fruit and veg. Admittedly, aiming for 5-a-day, every day is a little unrealistic for us students, but getting your hands on some of the good stuff is probably easier than you think (sourz don't count, though). If vegetables aren't top of your shopping list, you could take to smoothies to boost those all-important energy levels.

Last but not least, try and catch up on those Zzz's.

Of course, in-between staying out until sunrise but managing to be up the next day to claim some Freshers' Fair freebies, sleep is just an inconvenience. However, you should aim to bag a solid six to eight hour snooze.

Okay, so you're fighting fit and feel like you should be ready to face Freshers' Week head on. But there's one problem - your head just isn't in the right place.

It's totally natural to feel all out of sorts when dropped into a com-



Photo by Nick Lound

pletely new environment. This doesn't just apply to first years - for all you second and third years out there, it's understandable that a three month summer packed with home comforts is always going to be difficult to tear yourself away from. The anxiety of missing family and friends can easily be dismissed, simply by planning fun weekends of visiting in the near future. Making plans in advance will not only give you comfort in knowing your loved ones aren't that far away, but it will guarantee that you begin to appreciate your independence.

Perhaps leaving old faces behind isn't the problem, what if you're apprehensive about all those new faces? In this case, find comfort in

knowing these new faces will also be thinking this. There are always people to talk to whether that be the student next door or a member of your JCR. Also, consider propping your door open so that you yourself might be that friendly face called upon for a chat.

Bearing all this in mind will help you survive Freshers' Week both physically and mentally, ensuring that you remember this exciting opportunity of a week, for all the right reasons.

Lancaster's Society Showcase

Becky Cutler

Societies, the area of university life that gives you the chance to explore an extracurricular activity which has absolutely no relevance or connection to your chosen subject - thank god for that, without them I would go mad. You are presented with the opportunity to broaden your horizons without having to worry about coursework or exams, you can just enjoy this new subject and give it as much or as little time as you like.

Societies are also an excellent way of socialising at the end of a hard day, with most societies offering socials or extra events that go beyond their primary focus. Whilst there are of course, many societies at Lancaster which relate to specific courses or aims - i.e. the Law society or one of our many language clubs - there are also a fair few which have unique themes that you should definitely try out!

Ultimate Frisbee Society

The Ultimate Frisbee society is one for anyone who finds themselves with too much excess energy, or anybody hoping to improve their



Image provided by society

physical fitness and doesn't mind looking like Kermit the Frog on speed whilst they do it. The society play indoors and outdoors multiple times a week, and is even

played competitively throughout the year.

The main aim of the game is to score points by catching the Frisbee in the opponent's end zone; players can't run whilst holding the disk therefore they must rely on passing to their team-mates in order to move the Frisbee up-field without it being intercepted by the opposing team.

Harry Potter fans assemble

The Harry Potter society is another unique addition to the university's social arena, with an up-to-date website which blogs regularly about their achievements, and the occasional moment of Harry Potter appreciation you can't doubt this society's dedication. Anybody who loves Potter is actively encouraged to join and warmly welcomed, with a fantastic array of socials and brilliant Potter puns, it's



Image by bibicall

such as Pub Quidditch and Horcrux hunts, inviting members to join their magical atmosphere.

Fitness with a twist

Lancaster University Pole Fitness society is another one which should not be overlooked. Pole fitness is a relatively new society which offers a chance to get toned and fit whilst meeting other people with similar aims.

Pole fitness has become increasingly popular over the last few years around Britain and is being described by some as the new "football for women", so it's definitely about time that Lancaster joined the craze.

Lessons are held weekly and the rumour is it quickly becomes addictive, which is precisely what you want with any fitness class/unique past-time.

The 20 Minutes Society

The 20 Minutes society should definitely be taken note of at Freshers' Fair this year for its liberating approach to life. If you want a break from the stresses

of university life and you want to meet new people and try new things, the 20 Minute society is for you. They run a variety of weekly socials for you to participate in, which allows you to collect points and compete in competitions that run on a termly basis.

Take a leap!

Last but not least, we have the Freefall society. Skydiving is epic (I can say so, I've done it) and is great fun. Whether you only plan on doing it once or you're an adrenaline junkie, skydiving is something that features on almost everybody's bucket list so it's definitely worth a go. You never know, you might discover a new favourite hobby. Members of the society have described it as a fantastically exhilarating experience and is perfect for anyone who wants to make the sky their playground.

Whatever you choose, be it a crazy new hobby or to explore your journalistic flair by writing for SCAN, most societies at Lancaster have their own Facebook pages and will be present at Freshers' Fair during the week. You can also find out about more societies on the Lancaster University website.

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Comment

Comment Editors: Julia Molloy & Sam Smallridge ✉ scan.comment@lusu.co.uk

Are young people affected the most by ever rising rail fares?

Julia Molloy
Comment Editor



Rail companies in England have recently announced that rail fares will increase by an average of 4.1% in 2014, a rate which is significantly above inflation. In Scotland, however, fares are capped at the rate of inflation. Yet despite increases, customers are seeing little, if any, improvements to their rail services and face frequent delays and overcrowding.

It's a concern that could hit students very hard. With the cost of running a car impractical for thousands of students, many instead rely on trains to travel between home and university, whether on a daily basis or for occasional visits home. In fact, according to the Lancaster Guardian, it's a trend that is seeing the North West having the highest amount of train journeys completed in a region outside of London.

Aidan Turner-Bishop, from the Lancashire group of the Campaign for Better Transport, said: "Young people are using cars less and less and fewer people are learning to drive, taking lessons and buying cars, because they can't afford it. A few years ago at the age of 17 you would buy a car as soon as possible, it used to be a rite of passage, but that's easing off now." It's

certainly not feasible for the majority of university students, let alone 17 year olds, to be running a car now and so trains become the next best option.

Unfortunately for us in Lancaster, however, matters are made worse by the fact that Lancaster train station is on the main line, meaning a higher price for the luxury of travelling on a Virgin train.

Travelling as a student is fast becoming a great expense for little comfort in return

They may be more comfortable, but trains are often late or experience problems, and overcrowding is beginning to be an issue in the North West just as much as in London.

Travelling as a student is fast becoming a great expense for little comfort in return. Even though 16-25 year olds can apply for a railcard which knocks off a third of the ticket price, the privilege is restricted to non-peak hours and, unless you manage to get some sort of a deal, the card costs money to own anyway. Money for travel seems to be slipping out of our fingers with no apparent hope of a decrease in any transport prices or of improvement in our rail service.

Even planned improvement to rail networks,

such as the HS2 rail project which plans to have high speed trains between London, the West Midlands and Manchester, cannot be implemented without controversy. Despite serious problems of overcrowding and an ageing rail network, customers are not seeing promised renovations and improvements on a daily basis. So where is all our cash going?

What also frustrates me is the plainly false advertising of companies that claim that their train tickets are far cheaper than their competitors, which lures students who want to save cash into thinking that this is the way to go. Such advertising, however, is completely false.

The only way to get cheap

tickets is to either book them about 13 weeks in advance or to choose a very slow and meandering train which will make you wish you hadn't bothered. Then of course there's the booking fee on top which companies like these conveniently forget to mention until the final page of payment. If, like me, you haven't got the time to plan your life 13 weeks in advance, you'll soon discover that train tickets are exactly the same price on every single website that claims to be the cheapest train ticket seller. It's all a bit of a headache.

Train companies are clearly out to make profit rather than to take care of its customers. Students are unfortunately trapped in this minefield of a price war.

Train companies are clearly out to make profit rather than to take care of its customers

Whilst we may not like to admit it, travelling home on occasion has its plus sides, but with train fares increasing at an uncontrollable rate, it's turning out to be more of a luxury journey than a right. Will we ever get out of this rut and see prices coming down? For the foreseeable future, it seems that we'll just have to avoid travelling on the train unless absolutely necessary.



Photo by Mae Reddaway

Was banning Lads' mags from campus the right decision?

FOR: Julia Molloy



Lads' mags have been the bane of every feminist student over the past few years. With the crude pictures included in them being decried as objectifying and as verging on pornographic, there has been an outcry as to whether students, both male and female, should be subjected to such indecent images. LUSU, one of the few students' unions to take decisive action, has now banned lads' mags from being sold at LUSU shops – a move which we can only take as positive.

Now, I wouldn't say that I am feminist – far from it. But lads' mags epitomise a growing trend of casual sexism that, in the name of 'banter', is being largely ignored by both sexes. Such magazines see women as objects to be used by the heterosexual male population, and yet if asked any student on campus would surely say that objectifying women in the manner that lads' mags do is no joke. Anyone reading a lads' mag cannot seriously say that buying and encouraging the sales and growth of such magazines does no harm to the fight for equal rights and respect in our society.

For all the criticism that LUSU, and other students' unions, come under on a regular basis, I would like to congratulate our Union concerning banning lads' mags. The Union has been decisive and shown that it is not afraid of making controversial decisions; for me that is what students' unions are all about. Some may argue that banning lads' mags curtails our right to freedom of speech and expression, but would anyone tolerate magazines that came across as racist for example? Absolutely not – such a publication would be banned straightaway. Thus, it should be no different for sexist publications.

It's matter of respect for the female population on campus, in the same way that any magazine objectifying men would be disrespectful. Seeing the indecent images contained in lads' mags encourages a lack of respect and yobbish behaviour towards women on nights out, for example. Lads' mags encourage this almost subconscious mindset, in both men and women, that dressing provocatively is the only way to attract attention. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Yet it is only when someone stands up and takes decisive action that we realise just how disrespectful men and women can be when it comes to objectifying others or themselves.

Banning such magazines is demonstrative of the student population not standing for a patriarchal or sexist society. The issue of gender equality has come a long way over the past century, and we are privileged in that we live in a country where sexism is, for the most part, eradicated. We have not, however, reached the stage where objectifying women has been eradicated, and steps such as banning lads' mags still need to be taken. I would even argue that it is necessary to go further and address the issue of other magazines that purport the objectification of women. LUSU has taken its first step into addressing sexism via written media, so why not go further and discourage or ban other publications that do the same thing?

Students are the future of our society; we are the educated mass and future leaders who can make a real difference. Banning lads' mags shows a shifting attitude to casual sexism and we need to make the definitive stand to show that we will never tolerate such attitudes. We are the example-makers, and this decision demonstrates to everyone else that sexism is on its way out. Instead of attacking LUSU's decision as being contrary to our freedom of speech, we should be congratulating the Union for helping to get rid of objectifying attitudes. Let's hope that such decisive action continues into the next academic year, so that both men and women can finally be equally respected.

AGAINST: Sam Mace

Lads' mags are crude and unpopular with the majority of society, and they objectify women. They stereotypically include silly articles, game reviews and other trivial non-news. They produce little, if any benefit, to society as a whole and some claim that they even cause harm as they can make men objectify women, more than some already do. I do not read lads' mags. However, I personally find this response to ban them distasteful.

It is the response that someone gives when they dislike something, whether for good reason or not, and without thinking declare a misguided position. When the general public does not like something, we cannot simply just ban it.

The decision to ban lads' mags is a clampdown on the freedom of the individual to look at and buy what they want. Everyone who attends this university is aged 18 and upwards, we can drink, smoke, have sex and join the army if we wish. Thus, are we being deprived of choosing to read what we like?

Almost every adult is capable of making a decision on what they want or do not want to read. One advocacy group even stated that they didn't want to ban the magazines because they didn't want to create new legislation; they just wanted to stop shops from selling them, which is essentially banning them in all but name.

One argument which is made, is that shops who sell these magazines are breaking the law under the Equality Act of 2010 because front covers showing a woman who is partially naked can be constituted as sexual discrimination and harassment to both consumers and employees. Surely this could easily be got around by both putting the magazines on the top shelf as per tradition and using plastic packaging so the front cover is obscured.

Some may also argue that lads' mags cause sexism within society because of their objectification of women. I would argue, however, that lads' mags are not the cause but a symptom of the problem in

society regarding the objectification of women and ensuring they are not sold does nothing to solve this.

The way to stop the objectification of women in society is through a root and branch approach. It needs to start from the bottom up, which requires providing better sex education in classrooms to address the issues of sexism and body image plaguing today's society. These lessons can be taught from an early age, by telling children that body image is not everything. This would promote real changes in attitudes which people who believe in equality are truly looking for rather than a benign gesture which falsely rails against sexism by taking an obvious target on. The way you win the battle on sexism is not by banning magazines, it's by teaching people to know better.

If the root and branch approach was taken, lads' mags might well die out or at least they would have to change to make them better for consumers and the general public. Many of the arguments made against lads' mags are also made against online pornography. These arguments ignore the fact that many men find semi-naked or naked women arousing and I don't feel this demographic should feel bad about satisfying this urge when women consent to allow people to look at their body.

J.S. Mill argued that the state should not interfere with an action unless it is causing direct harm. As far as I'm concerned, men and women who find these magazines to their taste should not be stopped from enjoying them, as long as these people cause no harm because of them.



Photos by Mae Reddaway

Securitisation gone too far! From Small Government to Spying Government

• As technology advances and becomes entrenched in our homes and lives, is privacy being threatened by government spies and companies collecting our personal data?

Kristina George

In June of this year the Guardian and the Washington Post were said to have brought shame to the Obama Administration and the National Security Agency (NSA) who, with the help of Microsoft, Apple and Facebook, were caught spying on both American and international citizens. The revelations have left people around the world questioning whether the Obama administration has taken the proper and necessary steps to protect Americans, or whether the effort for securitization has completely eclipsed civil liberties.

The Obama administration has now executed a dogged pursuit to capture the whistle-blower Edward Snowden, the man at the heart of the revelations.

In the months of revelations reported by the Guardian, it has become clear that the NSA operates a complex web of spying programs which allows it to intercept internet and telephone conversations from over a billion users from dozens of countries around the world. When asked why he leaked the information publicly, Snowden replied that it was because he believed that the government's actions perpetuated an "existential threat to democracy". He is now taking refuge in Moscow, threatened by an espionage charge (ironically) from the US government, and information has continued to be leaked.

So is he a traitor or a hero?

Clearly, the US government thinks he is a traitor; a threat to its nation's security. In accordance with this it has fought off allega-

tions of a breach of the first and fourth amendments. Is Snowden within his democratic rights? Pragmatic governments will always build safeguards for times when tyranny poses a threat to domestic tranquility. James Madison, a Founding Father of America's Constitutional framework urged caution declaring that:

"If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary... the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself... but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions".

Madison warned of the very problem that plagues governments throughout history. When do the means to protect become so

overbearing that it becomes necessary to restrain? Put simply: when has securitisation gone too far?

Perhaps what we do not expect is the State's security agenda to hone in on the personal lives of the people themselves. Rather, we expect the government to stand on the broad front of the State's borders and protect the country from its enemies.

We may expect (rightly or wrongly) for forces to go out traversing into far parts of the world protecting the nation's interests internationally.

The term small government indicates a government that fulfils two criteria: maintaining domestic order and protecting the nation against external threats. However, external threats are now breaking the barriers of normative war conduct. The heroic 'M' from the fictitious espionage world of James Bond, describes it appropriately:

"I'm frightened because our enemies are no longer known to us. They do not exist on a map, they aren't nations. They are individuals. our world is not more transparent now, it's more opaque!"

'Fear' is the key discriminatory feature. When a powerful governing body that has the power to spy on the intimate details of its citizens, and those citizens become the object of fear, the loss of civil liberties is catastrophic. How

do we maintain security in today's world? One slip when it comes to securing the lives of the people can be devastating. One mistake, one bomb planted on a bus or two planes flown into buildings, and in the eyes of the public, all previous terrorist attempt preventions might as well not have happened. Consider Donald Rumsfeld's words: "what do we do about unknown unknowns?"

I do not condone the persecution of Mr. Snowden but it must be asked how do we maintain security in a world that is indeed 'opaque'? Surely there must be a means to effectively secure our citizens more effectively or must we choose between our security and our freedom? If we don't find this balance we risk allowing the accused to drown before judging them indeed innocent.



Image by -luckycat-

CRISIS IN EGYPT:

The failure of democracy in the Middle East?

- With Egypt torn apart by riots due to the election of a controversial leader, Liam Stott examines whether the nation can be truly be considered democratic
- The question remains whether Western European are really able to help by interfering in what is “essentially a domestic crisis”

Liam Stott

It has been just over a year since Mohammed Morsi, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood within Egypt, was named as the country’s first democratically elected President. Since then, however, Egypt has been intensely divided, with nearly half of the electorate objected to President Morsi’s seemingly authoritarian and religious policies, resulting in a second takeover of Tahrir Square in the Egyptian capital Cairo. Last month, President Morsi was ousted from office after an intervention by the Egyptian army, resulting in violent clashes between supporters of the former President and security forces.

The ensuing chaos has cast doubts over whether Egypt would be able to sustain itself as a democratic nation.

Obviously any politically shifting Middle Eastern state is highly unlikely to create a secular liberal democracy, similar to that in Western Europe, with religion in politics being an important part of the culture. Can democracy survive in such a volatile environment? And should Western European nations, as well as the US, take a step back from this crisis, allowing the Egyptian people to resolve it on their own? Since the removal of Mohammed Morsi from his po-

sition as President on July 3, there has been a series of violent clashes resulting in a large number of casualties and fatalities.

mental institutions, hospitals, churches, places of worship [and] causing ... a threat to domestic peace and security.”

crimes” which show “the total disregard of the right to life by these murderous fascist thugs.” If these levels of violence

ture elections?

So should Western European nations, as well as the US, become involved in what is essentially a domestic crisis within Egypt?

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and the president of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy have said the EU “will urgently review in the coming days its relations with Egypt.” These relations include trade embargoes and aid packages that Egypt currently receives from Europe. However, with Saudi Arabia expressing its own political and economic support for Egypt’s interim government, it is unclear as to what effect the withdrawal of Western aid will have on the outcome of the crisis.

continue, however, Egypt is in danger of returning back to an authoritarian regime, with the banning of certain political parties such as the Muslim Brotherhood and a government that is ultimately backed by the military.

From a Western perspective, however, it is difficult to attempt to create a clear picture of the devastation, as well as the political ramifications of such instability. The interim government has attempted to reassure the nation that new elections will be held within a year, but will Egypt’s military stand for election? Will members of the ousted Muslim Brotherhood be allowed to stand in these fu-



Photo by Mohamed Azazy

Despite international condemnation for the violence seen in the cities of Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt’s interim government still retains the support of the military and certain members of the Arab League, particularly Saudi Arabia, who has reportedly said that it “will not hesitate to help” the government if Western nations cut their aid packages to the country.

According to The Guardian, Nabil Fahmy, foreign minister in the military-backed interim government, has told Britain’s Foreign Secretary William Hague and other foreign ministers that: “the Brotherhood and its allies were terrorising citizens, attacking govern-

There still remains a feeling of uncertainty as to the future of Egypt; a country not so long ago seen as the success of democracy within the Middle East is now suffering its worst domestic crisis since the fall of Hosni Mubarak in the 2011 uprising.

There have, however, been conflicting reports of gunfire within the country. The Muslim Brotherhood has described deaths caused by the military’s crackdown on Islamists as “cold-blooded killings” and has even gone as far as to claim that the interim government has “decided to betray its trust and ignore its role” with these “heinous

Will Labour win a majority in 2015?

Liam Stott

Even though the Labour party have consistently been ahead in the opinion polls since George Osborne’s ‘Omni shambles’ budget of March 2012, Ed Miliband has received a lot of advice this summer, from prominent members of his own party in regards to Labour’s strategy for the next election. Ex-cabinet ministers, such as David Blunkett, Alistair Darling, and more recently, Andy Burnham have lined up to offer the Labour leader publicity-seeking advice. According to the most recent opinion poll by The Guardian, the Labour party holds a “seven percentage point advantage over the Tories”; however, Ed Miliband’s personal ratings have suffered a decline, with only 19% approving of his performance and 50% disapproving, giving him a net rating of - 31. Furthermore, the Guardian reported that David Cameron’s personal ratings now stand at a net rating of - 18, with 32% approving and 50% disapproving.

So should Labour be per-

forming better in the opinion polls? The short answer is yes. Labour should be higher in the opinion polls, given the current state of the British economy and the sharp fall in living standards. Even though the OECD economic agency has increased its growth forecast for the UK economy from 0.8% to 1.5%, unemployment remains at 7.8%, and is not set to fall below 7% until the start of 2016. Wages are also being squeezed, with the number of UK workers earning below the so-called living wage rising from 3.4 million in 2009 to 4.8 million at a time when food, fuel and transport prices are rising. The problem for Labour is that they are still blamed by some members of the public for the large structural deficit Cameron and Osborne are trying to tackle. Furthermore, their mes-



Department of Energy and Climate Change

sage to the electorate on the economy has been both weak and ill received, due to a lack of new and imaginative policies.

Labour can still improve its standing in the opinion polls, but only if it gets behind domestic policies that are realistically manageable and appeal both to the core of the electorate and

to those that have become dissatisfied with politicians. Ed Miliband’s attack on zero hour contracts, as well as his promotion of the ‘living wage’ is a good place to start as it will appeal to Labour’s core voters. In addition, the Labour leader’s persistence in adopting a new relationship with the trade unions would appear to be his way of improving transparency in the funding of political parties, an issue that has plagued all the major parties in parliament. Miliband now needs to be a more assertive in his own party. In the run up to the 1997 election, the Conservative PM, John Major, was criticised by Tony Blair for the lack of cohesion in the Conservative party: ‘I lead my party, he follows his’. This is the position that Ed Miliband needs to be in, portraying Labour as a united force, while painting the Conservatives as a divisive party.

Perhaps the main issue in politics today, particularly in liberal democracies, is the public’s dissatisfaction with their politicians. According to the Guardian, ‘trust in

politicians is at rock-bottom levels, and more than four out of five people think that MPs put their own or parties interests above those of the country’. The expenses scandal of 2009 is still firmly rooted in the minds of the British public and both politics and the major parties have suffered as a result. People have chosen to vote in council elections, and even in general elections, with 65.1% of the electorate turning out in the 2010 election, compared with 77.7% in 1992.

It therefore remains difficult to predict the outcome of the next election. The Liberal Democrats will almost certainly suffer as a result of their broken pledge on tuition fees, and Nick Clegg’s ineffective leadership in the face of their Conservative colleagues. Growth in both the economy and the jobs market will almost certainly be crucial factors in determining the result, as will the state of the NHS. Personally, my bet remains on a hung parliament, but as to which party will win the most seats, it’s anyone’s guess.

Fracking will benefit the UK economy

Peter Holley

In the past year, there have been repeated and rather clichéd arguments against the new process of fracking. It has been hijacked by left-wing, anti-capitalist, green lobbies. It is, however, simply a scaremongering, anti-change agenda, with the protesters generally being unable to admit that they and their views, I think, are being proved wrong. The arguments range from contributing to climate change and water contamination, to causing earthquakes, spoiling the landscape and diverging from investing in renewables.

Firstly, shale gas causes less than half the amount of CO emissions that coal does. It will reduce emissions by

displacing coal in electricity generators.

Secondly, although there is potential for the process to cause water contamination, the risk can be significantly reduced if the process is regulated properly. As Daniel Hannan, Conservative MEP for South East England, observed: “There has been a great deal of fracking in the U.S but not a single instance of water being contaminated.” The process has also been pronounced safe by the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Again, it is true that there will be general disruption to the landscape at the start of the process. However, Prime Minister David Cameron has stated, not only will no work be done in ar-

reas of natural beauty but as he pointed out: “Shale gas reserves are usually only the size of a cricket pitch and similar types of drilling have been taking place for decades without any real protest.”

True, they will replace renewables as the most important form of energy for future needs. Yet that is not a bad thing, as not only will renewables still be used and needed but unlike renewables, shale gas does not need public subsidies, which cause household bills to rise and put many hard working families into fuel poverty.

As North Sea oil and gas reserves run out, shale gas will replace both as our home grown energy which means we will no longer

be reliant on the Middle East or Russia. It will provide thousands of useful jobs, especially up here in the North West where unemployment is rife. Britain could potentially become a gas exporter and the cheap gas, which is currently unused, will lower gas bills for thousands of householders ensuring a better standard of living. This will generate a great deal of tax revenue for the exchequer, as well as helping the economy to recover from the post-world recession and ensure our generation’s futures are not compromised.

Anyone who has doubts need only to look to the USA, where shale gas has done wonders for the economy by getting it out of recession, lowering unem-

ployment and ensuring that the USA may be energy independent by 2030.

Fracking is not without its shortcomings, of course. There are still carbon emissions being produced by shale gas and it will run its course eventually, so there needs to be renewables backing it up. Legitimate safety concerns will also require regulation. I cannot see, however, how something which cuts emissions can be negative.

The arguments, as stated above, are merely an attempt to preventing change. Pro-interventionists and exponents of useless renewable energies will not solve the energy crisis. Only shale gas will help this, which is why it is essential that we get fracking.



Ronnie Rowlands

Postscript

Begging & Balls-ups: The Admissions Fiasco

Hallo, mein lieblich, and the warmest of welcomes since we records began to the sweaty, feverish embrace of **POSTSCRIPT**: the rusted rumour mill forever teetering on the far end of SCAN.

Listen closely as you stand amidst the flurry of student minds whirring back into activity and you'll hear the sound of University House patting down the last layer of dirt on the bad news it has attempted to bury over the summer. Heigh ho – it's time to throw off our inhibitions and dive head first, once again, onto the double edged sword that is university politics.

I am fully aware that this particular issue of SCAN is bursting a certain cherry in a rather large group of individuals. I am referring, of course, to the new batch of the not-yet-jaded ones – our 2013 freshers! My delight to be graced by you all is, of course, standing proud, but also palpably impotent in comparison to the sheer relief that the dizzying echelons of University Management have to see you.

Since, for many of you, getting into Lancaster University was fraught with some frankly bizarre twists and turns which were sometimes convenient but almost certainly baffling, I should probably make an effort to explain just what the bloody hell was going on up at this end while you were passing your exams, packing your teddy bears and toothbrushes and giddily preparing to take the first step of the rest of your lives.

Many of you may remember, a few weeks after receiving your offers and grade conditions of a place at Lancaster, getting a letter through the post letting you know that even if you missed out on your three

As or your AABs by consequential margins, you would still be more than welcome to join. Yes, sorry to shatter the bliss of the ignorance, but no one was unique in being told that concessions would be made for them. In actual fact, this sudden u-turn came about after the University's misguided attempt to compete with Oxbridge and dole out extremely high entry tariffs led to a shuddering collapse in applications. History were 49% down on applications, Physics suffered a vacuum that sucked away 30% from last year, Sociology 23%, and so on and so forth. And so, after some Union tub thumping and more than a few coronaries on D Floor (for the uninitiated, D Floor is where senior figures in University Management live. That they will be mentioned in this column for many moons to come is doubtless), backpedalling ensued and the University got down on one knee to plead for your presence. Concessions were promised for practically all, in an attempt to stop students with the potential to get AAA from choosing Lancaster as insurance to Oxbridge.

But it didn't end there, oh no, not in the slightest. Then came clearing, and the University had places to fill to reach their targets. Not just a few here and there, but a LOT. Yes, I'm talking hundreds. The University decreed that entry grades for clearing students should be lowered to somewhere in the region of BBB (overruling a few Faculty admissions decisions in the process), getting down on both knees and clasping its hands for mercy in the process.

And then, just to really woo desperate students drowning in the swathes of clearing, they were promised on-campus accommodation should they accept an offer,

a privilege that wasn't even guaranteed to the 90 or so insurance students who were scrumping for place on campus, all of whom could have been housed. These insurance students were, gracefully, offered sweeteners to help them get over the disappointment of being leapfrogged by clearing students. Free bus passes, £500s worth of food vouchers, that sort of thing. I don't know what the other off-campus first years have to say about this, but I can hazard a guess...!

Quite frankly, Lancaster carried out the academia equivalent of dropping its pants and doing the Fandango for food when it came to admissions, and it doesn't look set to get any better. The 2014 prospectus is still advertising courses with the higher entry tariffs, while the University has recently taken on the dual objective of increasing our intake and regaining our place in the top ten. As the only way we can achieve the former is by dropping our entry requirements, how are we going to achieve the latter when entry tariffs have such an impact on our league table standings?

Oh yes. It's sure going to be a looong year...

If you're a second year, third year or postgraduate student and you're moving back into an on-campus room, you might notice that you no longer have your own telephone. This is part of an initiative by Student Based Services (SBS) to save the £50,000 it costs to maintain these phones. Before we go any further, bear in mind the part of the remit of SBS is to look after the welfare of students. Now take a moment to consider the potentially negative implications that the removal of personal phones in on-campus rooms could bring about for student welfare.

This is where I start to get very, VERY angry.

The closure of the on-campus Nurse Unit and the only recently rectified shortage of counselling provision would imply that SBS are less pre-occupied with stopping students from cutting themselves and more with simply getting them through their exams. The recent telephone amnesty doesn't so much imply it; it more sort of parades around with the message garishly printed on a t-shirt. It also shows a blatant disregard for the consultation that took place with College administrators last year, which churned out the desire to keep hold of the telephones, but we all know that consultation is, for the University, an exercise in deciding to do the complete opposite of what is suggested.

Having phones in bedrooms is a matter of wel-

fare. If you make a 999 call via the security office from an interior line, your location on campus is directly pinpointed – not something that can be done via a mobile phone. Another great appeal is the fact that built-in phones don't run out of battery. You also have a signal – more often than not, you'd need arms the length of the Great Wall of China to lift your mobile phone high enough to get one bar, and there's even less hope if you live on South West Campus.

The proposed replacement for this invaluable service is laughable. A source tells me that one such suggestion from SBS was a Twitter or Facebook page for reporting problems. There are also, supposedly, plans to simply have one phone per block. So, about 60 odd people to a phone. Because when I want to speak to Nightline, I want to do it standing in the corridor in my dressing gown within earshot of the game of Ring of Fire being played in the kitchen.

The clear, specific and structured protocol for emergency reports was facilitated by interior phones in flats, and while it would be insensitive to dredge up real examples, it has doubtless saved lives or serious harm.

Is your shower broken and needs repairs? Does unruly behaviour require the attention of the porters? Is your flatmate bleeding to death right in front of you? Then send your tweets to one of our friendly advisors in and... you get the picture.

Read more online at scan.lusu.co.uk/comment



SCAN Puzzles

Crossword

1	2		3		4		5	6		7		8		9
10					11									
12							13							
14		15		16		17				18				
19						20			21		22		23	
24									25					
26											27			
28									29					

Sudoku

EASY								
5	3		9	6		4		
6	8	9	7			3		
		7	5			2		
8	7			9	4	5	6	1
	2		6		7		3	9
	5	6	3	1	8	7	4	2
	4	5		2			8	3
	9		8	7	5	6	2	4
2	6	8	4	3	9	1		

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

MEDIUM								
		2				1		7
			7		3	2		6
				4				
6	9		8					5
8					4	6		1
4	2			6		9	8	
			4	7				
7				2	6		1	
	6	4		3	8			2

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

HARD								
			2		5	4		
						6		
5	8						1	
	9						2	
1	4			8		3		
8						7		
4		6				1	8	
			6					
			3		2		9	

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Letters to the Editor will return in the next issue; if you wish to send in a letter, please email to scan.editor@lusu.co.uk

And another thing:

LUSU has relocated to round the back of the Learning Zone. It's quite a radical overhaul – individual offices for sabbatical officers are no more. We've moved into the 21st century, and as such we are lumbered with the 'open plan' fallacy. A wise man once said that open plan facilities are more welcoming, but presumably this individual was losing his touch and his mind when he said it. A thousand eyes now dart straight towards any stranger who sets foot into the facility. Officer stations are crammed together with no labelling to the point where people are most likely mistaking the VP for Education for a drunken front of house concierge, and there's no unassuming way for a random student with a welfare issue to discretely attract the attention of the VP for Welfare and Community.

You'll be sure to involve yourself in College Spirit Week, which takes place in Week 2, won't you? The force and importance of the Colleges has been so mercilessly neutered by the University, so a week of celebration strikes me as a welcome antidote and a first step to clawing back some of their relevance. In addition to this, University Archivist Marion McClintock MBE will be giving a talk on the history of the Colleges. McClintock, who has been a part of Lancaster University since the 1960s, is the living nerve centre of this institution's history. She is the author of 'Shaping the Future: A History of Lancaster University' (which you should all read), as well as an engrossingly knowledgeable speaker. It's worth involving yourself in Spirit Week for that alone, but I'll be there for all of it. See you there.

THE sugarhouse



J/UXED

old's
cool
it's a retro-haven

SWEET AS

J/UXED

WEDNESDAYS

LANCASTER'S DEDICATED INDIE NIGHT WITH A TWIST

MAIN ROOM – INDIE, ALTERNATIVE, BRIT POP

FRONT ROOM – COMMERCIAL HOUSE/REMIXES, MASHUP, TRAP, DUBSTEP

old's
cool
it's a retro-haven

FRIDAYS

LANCASTER'S QUINTESSENTIAL STUDENT NIGHT

MAIN ROOM – 50 YEARS OF CLASSIC HITS

FRONT ROOM – R & B, HIP-HOP, DANCEHALL, AFROBEATS

SWEET AS
SATURDAYS

LANCASTER'S BEST CLUB NIGHT

MAIN ROOM – HOUSE, D & B AND ALL THINGS CREDIBLE WITH LIVE PERCUSSION ON STAGE

FRONT ROOM – TOP 40, CHART, COMMERCIAL REMIXES

OPEN FROM 10:30PM – 03:00 AM

Sport

Sports Editors: Erik Apter & Iain Beddow ✉ scan.sports@lusu.co.uk

The academic year starts anew, as the fierce college rivalries live on

Danny Gallagher

As another academic year begins and an influx of eager freshers descend upon the Lancaster University campus, each of the eight undergraduate colleges ready themselves to lock horns for what is sure to be another year of fierce competition and passionate sporting drama. The 2013–2014 year will, as always, see the colleges compete across a whole host of sports, ending spectacularly with the university's athletes coming together collectively to face York in the annual varsity competition of 'Roses'.

Newcomers to Lancaster may initially be sceptical about the intensity that college rivalries can muster, brushing it aside as friendly competition. Nevertheless, once college tournaments such as the Carter Shield begin, the competitive edge of everybody involved will certainly be felt.

With Pendle taking last year's trophy, finishing nine points clear of Bowland on 123 points, spirits and general optimism are sure to be high on the south-westerly side of campus, as the college known for their witch's emblem seek to have another magical sporting year.

The annual 'Founders' tournament additionally stokes up a similar sense of passion around campus as the two founding colleges, Lonsdale and Bowland, go head-to-head in a weekend of sport to determine bragging rights. Last season saw Bowland take the overall win after hard-fought bat-

tlies in sports, ranging from hockey and rugby to basketball and dodge ball. Mass crowds gathered to witness each of the sporting events throughout the two days, best encapsulated with a crammed touchline as the football tie headed to a dramatic penalty shoot-out.

with last years A-league winners Pendle facing a tough match up with Fylde whilst simultaneously in the B league the action kicks off with one of the strongest rivalries in college football, a classic County vs Fylde showdown. Fylde will feel they have a score to

to know new people during your time at university. Whether personally playing or merely being a part of a group of supporters for a particular event, the beauty of inter-college competition allows people to unite over a shared purpose. With Freshers' Fair just around

their regularly competing bar sport teams including pool, darts and dominoes, which may better suit those who aren't fans of the more physically taxing sports.

In short, no matter what sport you either currently play or perhaps wish to play, the chances that the University caters for the sport you desire are considerably high indeed.



Photo by Jay Theis

Football and netball stand prominently as the main seasonal inter-college sports for students, with last year's league tables finishing closer than ever. The sense of rivalry can be felt from the off, with colleges eager to get a winning start and establish early points on the board. With sporting fixtures recently being released by LUSU, colleges are able to see exactly who they will face and when.

This seasons upcoming men's football fixtures have dished out a mouth-watering start to the campaign,

settle on this occasion, after being both knocked out of the LUSU cup and beaten to the B-league title by their County rivals last season.

College sport isn't completely about intense rivalry and patriotic-like allegiance – it is also a fundamental part of meeting new people and branching out your social life during your time here at Lancaster, into a whole new pool of different communities.

Joining a sports team, many students agree, is one of the quickest and most efficient ways of getting

the corner, there is not a more opportune moment to get involved with either a sport you love or perhaps one which you have never before previously heard of.

If weekly fixtures against fellow rival colleges aren't for you, Lancaster provides a whole host of other sports of a more lesser-known quantity, examples including tag rugby, rounders and volleyball; all of which are key elements which make up the Carter shield.

In addition to the sports already mentioned, the colleges pride themselves in

As Freshers' Week begins, with it college devotion and sporting allegiance follow in meticulous fashion.

Before you know it, you will find yourself declaring your love for your college and opposition to all others, most probably via many an alcohol-fuelled college anthem that ring around campus during an action packed first week.

It's here that you will first find yourself gaining both attachment and pride with the college you belong to, a feeling that will only grow stronger as you continue your journey as a Lancaster University student.

Enjoy Freshers' Week and remember to capitalise as much as you can upon the many sporting opportunities which will serve you with both high-level competition and friends of which you will most probably keep throughout the entirety of your university lives.

Editor’s Pick: Sporting Societies

Erik Apter

University life offers a whole host of new experiences for students and at Lancaster, sport is considered a vital part of the student experience. After many years of a staple diet of sports such as Football, Rugby and Netball many students will seek to expand their horizons upon their arrival. Lancaster students are particularly fortunate in that the university is home to a plethora of different sports clubs that cater to almost everybody. To give a feel for the huge variety of sport on offer at Lancaster, here are five very different sports you’ve probably never tried before.

3) **Water Polo**

It would be unfair to make a list of sports to try at Lancaster without including one of the university’s many water based ones. Water Polo is a popular sport with swimmers and does require a certain level of proficiency in water in order to play. It’s also a great way to keep fit in an enjoyable way and allows those who love the water to compete in a team sport. A game that requires a combination of speed, hand eye co-ordination and power, water polo is a must for team-sport lovers.

5) **Shooting**

As a sport that requires a lot of skill yet pays little attention to physical attributes, shooting will appeal to a lot of people. Fresh from victory over York at Roses, Lancaster University Shooting Club provides the perfect platform to shoot competitively or simply find a new hobby. Shooting provides a good option for those who want to relieve stress as well as people who dislike conventional sport.

4) **Triathlon**

You’ve done running, cycling and swimming, but what about combining the three into one gruelling sport? Triathlon is a sport for those who want to push themselves to the edge of endurance. Lancaster University Triathlon Club are a proud group who strive “to develop keen students into competent triathletes” whilst students with and without experience are both welcomed to join. Triathlons take a lot of training to compete in and our resident team are committed to sessions around six times per week to achieve a high standard of performance. Competition is also a big part of the club, the team contests Roses as well as at both university and local level.

1) **American Football**

Many of you will have seen the NFL on TV and been fascinated by a sport seldom played in the UK, but American football still remains huge in the states and our resident team “The Lancaster Bombers” are just as passionate. Coming off the back of a convincing victory at Roses, the Bombers will be looking to kick on even more next season and improve on their already talented pool of players. It’s a game that requires



an eclectic group of athletes and so no matter of physical stature, new recruits are always welcome. A highly combative sport that can also be very tactical, American football is the perfect alternative for those who’ve grown tired of football and rugby.

Iain Beddow

Following the Sports Centre’s establishment two years ago, the multi-functional building has developed itself into one of Lancaster University’s central hubs for societies and activities. Whether it is squash through to rock climbing the Sports Centre can cater for everybody. Vice President of Activities Emily Pollitt expressed “getting involved in societies during your time at university provides unparalleled experiences, lifelong friends and numerous opportunities to go that bit further. It all sounds a bit cheesy but the society I was involved in during my time at Lancaster really shaped my experience. There are so many things you can try whilst having so much fun along the way.”

Imperative to the university’s sporting calendar, the Sports Centre quietly sits separate from our hill-top campus but still remains a key focal point for activi-

ties and sport to flourish. The centre boasts a varying depth 25 metre swimming pool, numerous squash courts, climbing wall and a multi-use hall allowing for a rich number of sports to be featured here. Squash first team captain Robert Gibson encouraged freshers to “sign up, no matter your skill level, as we cater for all abilities.” With a development squad in addition to competitive teams, Lancaster Squash club look to strengthen their squads as they seek revenge in the 50th anniversary of Roses and look for promotion into the Northern League First Division.

While the Sports Centre continues to develop, so do the sports within it. As President of Lancaster Swimming and Water Polo (LUSWT), Rob Craven can confirm, telling SCAN: “The greater awareness of swimming and water polo has definitely increased participation because of the Olympics, which made more people want to try out such great physical sports.” First team captain of the men’s water polo Maroš Zuba proclaimed “freshers should overcome their physical and psychological limits and play water polo, not only for the great competition but for the best socials on campus.”

A unique team which can also be found in the Sports

Centre is the Lancaster Korfball club. For those of you who don’t know, korfball is an intriguing, mixed-gender, originally Dutch sport which can best be described as a halfway house between basketball and netball – only, shooting into an 11.5 ft yellow “korf” instead of a hoop.

Hannah Darwin, first team player and coach of Lancaster’s current stock of korfballers explained to SCAN how korfball is unique “The way korfball differentiates itself from any other sport is the defending rule, ‘an attacker cannot shoot if a defender is within arm’s length of the player’. This means that you have to escape your defender before you think about shooting.”

Since the building’s opening, the Sports Centre’s progression has seen it become a crucial home for sporting endeavour. While still emerging from its infant roots, the growing success and popularity of the societies within the centre would not have been made possible without the facilities presented inside.

Sports societies are a great means of meeting new people, keeping fit and making your university experience that little bit better, so get involved this Freshers’ Week, make use of what Lancaster has to offer and venture into the unknown – you won’t regret it.

The Summer of British success

Andy Murray winning Wimbledon is just one of many great successes for British sport over the past few months

Steff Brawn
Assistant Editor

The first British men’s singles Wimbledon champion for 77 years. England holds the Ashes for the third series running. The Tour de France is won by a British cyclist for the second time in two years.

“The summer of sport began on the green grass of Wimbledon and a man from the small town of Dunblane in Scotland had rather large expectations upon his shoulders.”

After the overwhelming sporting success that Britain displayed last summer in the Olympics, who’d have thought that our tiny nation could recover and pull another pile of achievements out of the bag just a year later? After London 2012, it seemed that nothing would ever again make Britain feel so united and proud, but it has to be said that this summer comes pretty close.

The summer of sport began on the green grass of Wimbledon and a man from the small town of Dunblane in Scotland had rather large expectations upon his shoulders. After reaching the final, gaining two Olympic medals and snatching his first grand slam title all in 2012, the pessimism that had long surrounded Andy Murray had rapidly disappeared. With the British number one in the form of his life and the early exits of Federer, Nadal and Tsonga causing a surprise, there seemed to be a sign that this was his time. After defeat-



ing tough opponents such as Verdasco and Youzhny, Murray arrived in the final to face the super-human Serbian Novak Djokovic. After displaying incredible determination in three frustrating championship points and a three set win; he fully deserved to become a champion. Along with the Scotsman taking the trophy, Britain also enjoyed watching a courageous effort from 19 year old Laura Robson who reached the fourth round and should be a promising contender in years to come.

Not long after Murray’s victory, our focus turned to one of the most historic rivalries in sport. The Ashes brought England continual pain for a good decade or so, but since the unforget-

table victory in 2005, there has been much more faith in English cricket.

“Team GB came home with three gold medals won by Christine Ohuruogu in perhaps the tightest 400m finish ever”

The men’s series this year ended with England winning three tests and drawing two meaning the urn stayed put on English soil. Our women cricketers also triumphed winning their Ashes with a 12-4 points victory proving that English cricket is still a

force to be reckoned with.

In cycling and athletics, there were many more outstanding displays of sporting strength. Chris Froome secured another British win in the Tour de France continuing the success of Wiggins last year. With the pressure high in the 100th year of the competition, Froome did phenomenally well to win by more than four minutes to claim the yellow jersey.

From Paris over to Moscow, the World Athletics Championship delivered a thrilling week of track and field action. Team GB came home with three gold medals won by Christine Ohuruogu in perhaps the tightest 400m finish ever and the seemingly

unbeatable Mo Farah. The competition starred many hopes for the Commonwealth Games and Rio 2016, so we can be quite sure that Team GB will have plenty more moments in glorious spotlight.

All of this and a bunch of other British victories, including the British and Irish Lions winning their tour of Australia and a win for the women golfers in the Solheim Cup, goes to show how much talent we truly have on these shores.

Fingers crossed that on top of London 2012 the summer of success this year will bring more sporting optimism to our nation and the belief that Britain can consistently produce champions in an array of different sports.

Is ‘Player Power’ out of control?

As usual, the close season has been dominated by several high-profile transfer sagas: in particular, that of Gareth Bale

James Benson

Anybody with even just a passing interest in football will know that this summer was dominated by three main transfer sagas. All eyes were on Gareth Bale, Luis Suárez and Wayne Rooney, as speculation mounted regarding where their futures would lay.

For some, it seemed as though none would end the summer with the clubs they started – after all three expressed their desire to leave.

Player power is a term widely used in footballing circles and for many this looked as though it would prevail. Ultimately, however, only one of the three men realised his desire to move. So whilst Suárez and Rooney may have seen their careers moving away from the North West of England, their clubs stood firm and refused to allow them to leave.

All eyes were on Gareth Bale, Luis Suárez and Wayne Rooney, as speculation mounted regarding where their futures would lay

Two London clubs, Arsenal and Chelsea, came calling for the want-away pair though both were knocked back in their pursuits. Though Rooney has not been Manchester United’s first choice striking option – since Robin Van Persie’s arrival just over 12 months ago – it is understandable that his club had no intention of selling a player with a league goals to games ratio higher than 1 in 2. He clearly remains an integral element of David Moyes’ squad, whilst



accepting Chelsea’s offer would have only served to strengthen a rival already buoyed by the return of José Mourinho ahead of the 2013/14 season.

In the case of Suárez, Liverpool faced a similar dilemma. Traditionally seen as a member of the “Big Four”, Liverpool in recent years, have fallen away in to the chasing pack and selling arguably their most influential player could well have cast them further adrift of the Premier League’s elite. The fact that both Manchester United and Liverpool retained their prize assets after each one had expressed their desire to leave signified that, in some instances, the will of the club can outweigh that of the player.

Whereas Manchester United and Liverpool retained two of their star performers, Tottenham Hotspur reluctantly let their

own marvel leave, as Bale departed to Real Madrid. Though the Welshman’s move at the end of August had looked inevitable throughout the summer, particularly after he made clear his desire to leave, the Spurs board chaired by Daniel Levy ensured that they would be the party who held all the cards at the negotiating table.

Whilst Levy didn’t publicly admit that Spurs were set to do business with Real Madrid, he went about spending the money he knew himself was set to come in, strengthening the club’s squad. By making purchases prior to Bale’s move, Levy ensured that Spurs were not held to ransom by clubs who would have known his club had just received a world record fee for a single player. Astute signings were added to André Villas-Boas’ already talented squad, with

some claiming it was now perhaps better equipped to mount an assault towards the league’s summit than ever before.

Only when Spurs were ready would Bale be able to move and even then, Levy played the situation to his advantage, knowing that Real Madrid would be prepared to meet almost any terms in order to secure the attacker’s signature. Figures of up to £100m had been suggested throughout the summer, though finally an agreement was reached that saw a 24 year-old from Cardiff become the newest Galactico for a world record fee in excess of the £80m paid for Cristiano Ronaldo four years earlier.

Whilst Spurs had lost their star man and Bale had got his way, it must be said that his former club had proven they were no pushovers and that the transfer largely hinged on their terms being

met rather than solely on the aspirations of the individual player.

A 24 year-old from Cardiff become the newest Galactico for a world record fee

Whilst player power is often thought to have grown in the past few decades, this summer’s transfer window went some way to dismiss any notion that it had gotten out of control. Though Bale achieved his wish to leave Spurs, Rooney and Suárez’s planned moves didn’t come to fruition.

Evidently it is clear that clubs still have a controlling hand in the transfer market, even if their omnipotent position has been somewhat challenged.

Carter Shield: What exactly is it?

Erik Apter
Sport Editor



As another year at Lancaster University draws ever closer and thousands of new students enter the gates, the eve of university sport also prepares to dawn a new day. Teams are readying themselves for trials. Freshers are anxiously deciding which clubs to join. Sports writers are previewing and predicting. Last year’s heroes, villains, triumphs and failures are all forgotten. The new season is here.

For anybody who doesn’t know, sport at Lancaster is huge. Each year we contest Roses with York: the biggest varsity in Europe. Our university teams compete around the country at hundreds of events.

College teams fight for campus bragging rights

Lonsdale and Bowland have Founders, but there’s Legends and Patriots too. To top it all off there’s the Carter Shield, the year-long event that encourages everybody at Lancaster to get involved with sport.

The Carter Shield is a competition contested by all of the colleges and combines a multitude of different sports over the course of the year. Colleges are awarded points depending on their performance in the various sports, these are then totalled in a league table and the winner is announced in final term.

More obscure games such as handball, tag rugby and korfbal are amongst the



selection of sports contested in the shield, allowing students to compete in a wide range of activities. Another positive dimension to the Carter Shield are the rewards for participation;

promotes sportsmanship and inter-collegiate mixing, encouraging students to make friends from other colleges whilst contesting good spirited matches.

Games usually take place on Sundays and last no more than a couple of hours giving an ideal break from revision or even some extra help to relieve a hangover.

Last year it was Pendle who topped the table with 123 points, ahead of both Bowland and Fylde who finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Pendle were rewarded for their consistent performances across all sports and great turnouts throughout the year and will be looking this year to retain their crown.

County as the biggest college will be looking to improve on their disap-



pointing 6th placed finish last year, whilst Bowland, Fylde and Lonsdale will be looking to reach the summit, knocking Pendle off their perch.

Ultimately however it is difficult to predict a winner for the Carter Shield.

The varied sports mean each college will be stronger at different events, but even more important is team or-





Sport

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Bar sport is more than just a pub game, at Lancaster it's a way of life

Tom Skinner

You may think you know your way around a pool table; have graced the oche every now and then or even played dominoes with your grandparents, but until you get involved with bar sports at Lancaster you might not realise how far simple pub games can take you.

Here at Lancaster, inter-college sport is integral to the collegiate system and helps to build college pride and identity. You'll more than likely not hear the fresher's week chants again for the rest of the year but the rivalries that they are based on will still rumble on. This is evident across all inter-college sport, but none more so than in bar sports.

Before coming here you may have just seen darts and pool as ways to pass time in the pub and you're not far wrong; socialising and relaxing in the college bars are some of the best ways to quickly settle into university life.

One thing you'll quickly realise though is that for many students: pool, darts

and dominoes are far more than just pub games. These three sports, and I use the term loosely, are some of the most hotly contested on campus, with college rivalries spurring on the intensity.

Despite playing pool from week one, I never truly understood this competitiveness until the end of my first year during the three inter-college summer sports tournaments; Founders, Patriots and Leg-ends.

Like most freshers with even a slight interest in bar sports, I didn't realise these sports could mean so much to the players until I went down to watch the darts at Founders. You'll be hard pressed to find a more competitive and better supported activity on campus than the men's darts at this event. The atmosphere is electric

each and every year, with a helping of banter and controversy thrown in for good measure! It is a similar case with Legends and Patriots too, all highlighting the fact that for many students, bar sports is at the centre of

of campus and make friends from other colleges. The one down side to a collegiate system for Fresher's Week is that you often find yourself only socialising with the people in your flat or down at the nearest bar in a college clique. There's nothing wrong with this as you'll quickly make friends for

life, but every now and then it's good to see how the other half lives.

By getting involved with bar sports, similarly to all campus sport, you get to meet like minded people from other colleges that you wouldn't normally come across.

If you grow to like the bar sports atmosphere and discover you're good at pool or darts then there's plenty of opportunities to take it further than just inter-college level. There is a common misconception that bar sports are

not taken as seriously at a university level but this is far from the case as its popularity grows year on year.

Lancaster regularly takes a dominant men's darts team to the University Cup, and the pool teams take part in BUCS. Added to this the men's and women's darts and pool teams prepare rigorously for Roses with the aim of sending York away with their tails between their legs. So if you're passionate about the Red Rose, there are plenty of opportunities to take darts and pool further than just campus. Sadly dominoes haven't quite taken off as much!

The competitive nature, mixed with new friendships and the ever important drinks from the bar, make bar sports nights the highlight of the sporting week for those involved. I would urge anyone, whatever your experience or ability, to head down to your college bar and have a go on the dart board, pool tables, or just talk to the people who are. Before you know it you'll be off on socials or even pulling on the bar sports top, ready to represent your college.



Photo by Jay Theis

college rivalries.

Despite being fiercely contested, bar sports are inherently social and a great way to see the whole

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Carter Shield Preview
- The best sporting societies on offer at Freshers' Fair
- The summer of British success
- A new academic year begins, but the college rivalries remain

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